Transforming every believer into a disciple of Jesus Christ

FOUNDATIONS

TRACK 1

Ashish Raichur

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BUILDING A STRONG FOUNDATION

Every believer needs to be brought to a place of maturity and released to being a "minister" of God in their world, be it at the marketplace or elsewhere. Every believer is a minister and is authorized by God to work the works of God and truly represent Christ to the world.

The FOUNDATIONS curriculum in the form of this workbook is designed to strengthen you in God's Word and Spirit, so that you can be fully equipped for every good work.

Track 1 covers these topics: (1) The nature of God (2) Salvation (3) Assurance of salvation and forgiveness (4) Overcoming temptation (5) Prayer (6) Praise and worship (7) God's Word (8) The local church (9) The sacraments (10) In Christ (11) The Holy Spirit (12) Faith (13) Financial stewardship (14) Fulfilling God's purpose for your life.

This workbook provides you with crisp lessons that will aid you in building a strong foundation in God's Word. The application section for each lesson helps you gauge your understanding and practically apply the various topics covered.

This book can be used as a tool for:

- **Self-study:** The crisp lessons will aid you in building a strong foundation in God's Word, while the application section at the end of each lesson will help you gauge your understanding and practically apply the various topics covered.

- **Group Study:** In cell groups or any Bible study group, this book will allow for prior preparation by each group member to grasp an overview of the lesson, jotting down questions that may arise on the topic, and then facilitate discussion in the group for a thorough study and application in real life.

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View Video recording of live sessions for each lesson.
Download MP3 of each lesson and study along with your workbook.
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1. THE NATURE OF GOD

(This lesson is designed to teach us the nature of God. God's nature is revealed in His creation, His Word, His attributes, and His Names. The Word of God reveals the nature of God to us. Jesus Christ is the Word in flesh—the perfect expression of the nature of God—the exact representation of God. God's true picture is revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. Our picture of God—affects not only our posture/stance toward God, but also our posture/stance toward people, the world, and the devil.)

What Do We Mean By The Term "Nature Of God?"

- "Nature of God" refers to His characteristics, attributes, and qualities. Basically, it is who He is and what He does.
- God's nature is revealed both in His attributes and His names.
- All of Creation reveals who God is and speaks of His greatness.

Romans 1:20
For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse.

Psalm 19:1
The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork.

- The Word of God reveals the nature of God to us.
- Jesus Christ is the Word in flesh—the perfect expression of the nature of God—the exact representation of God. God's true picture is revealed in the person of Jesus Christ.

John 1:1,14
1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Hebrews 1:3
Who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.

- God's Word and His works are always consistent with His nature—with who He is. God will never say something or do something that contradicts who He is. So, an important test to evaluate if something is truly of God—is to see if it aligns with God's nature.

- Our picture of God affects not only our posture/stance toward God (even how we pray), but also how we relate to people, the world, and the devil.

See God for who He really is and worship Him for who He is.
Do not permit your picture of God to be tainted by life's experiences or people's opinions.

The greatest revelation of who God is, is in the Person of Jesus Christ

God's Attributes Reveal His Nature

God Is the Creator and He Is Eternal

Genesis 21:33
Then Abraham planted a tamarisk tree in Beersheba, and there called on the name of the LORD, the Everlasting God.

Psalm 90:2
Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.

- No one made God. He always existed. He is self-existent and self-sufficient, not dependent on anything else for His existence. At some point, He decided to make us, and He has lived with us ever since.

- Unlike Him, we are all created and have a beginning.

- All things were created in Him, through Him, for Him.

Colossians 1:15-17
15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.
16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.
17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.

1 Timothy 1:17
Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

He Is a Spirit-person

John 4:24
God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.

Psalm 139:7-10
7 Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?
8 If I ascend into heaven, You are there; if I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there.
9 If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
10 Even there Your hand shall lead me, and Your right hand shall hold me.

> We are spiritual beings and are therefore capable of relating to God who is a Spiritual Being.

- God does not have a natural mortal physical body like ours.
- However, He is not some formless, jellylike, impersonal, spirit-force. The Bible reveals that God has a form like us. He has hands, eyes, ears, feet, and so on. God also has feelings and emotions like us—He loves, He cares, He laughs, He weeps, He is angered, He forgives. He is a Person and hence a personal God.
- Hence God desires relationship. He is described as Father. He considers us believers as sons and daughters and part of His family.
- Bible records that at times He takes on a physical appearance to communicate (Theologians call this as epiphany). Example: Moses (Exodus Chapters 33- 34).

He Is All-powerful (Omnipotent)

Luke 1:37
For with God nothing will be impossible.

- God's power is limitless, yet He has declared that there are certain things He will not do. For example, He will never be unfaithful, never lie, never stop loving. He cannot do these because these are contrary to His character and nature.
- God is powerful all the time.
- His power is released through His Word.

> God's omnipotence is encapsulated in His Word. His Word is POWER!

Hebrews 4:12
For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

He Is All-knowing (Omniscient)

Psalm 147:5
Great is our Lord, and mighty in power; His understanding is infinite.

Job 37:14-18
14 Listen to this, O Job; stand still and consider the wondrous works of God.
15 Do you know when God dispatches them, and causes the light of His cloud to shine?
16 Do you know how the clouds are balanced, those wondrous works of Him who is perfect in knowledge?
17 Why are your garments hot, when He quiets the earth by the south wind?
18 With Him, have you spread out the skies, strong as a cast metal mirror?

Isaiah 46:9-10
9 Remember the former things of old, for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me,
10 Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure.'

He Is Present Everywhere (Omnipresent)

Jeremiah 23:23-24
23 "Am I a God near at hand," says the Lord, "and not a God afar off?
24 Can anyone hide himself in secret places, so I shall not see him?" says the Lord; "Do I not fill heaven and earth?" says the Lord.

Psalm 139:7
Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?

Acts 17:24
God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands.

He Is Triune

John 14:26
But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

The Father represents the wisdom of the Godhead, He **conceives.**
The Son represents the authority of the Godhead, He **commands.**
The Spirit represents the power of the Godhead, He **creates.**

- The Bible presents this as fact, without giving a systematic explanation of how God is "Three Persons in One."
- God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit are all eternal, co-equal, and are to be worshipped.
- Each Person of the Godhead work as one, in unity, and harmony.

Psalm 104:30
You send forth Your Spirit, they are created; and You renew the face of the earth.

Job 33:4
The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life.

- Jesus and the Holy Spirit coming down.

Matthew 3:16-17
16 When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him.
17 And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

- Father + Son + Holy Spirit.

John 16:15
All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you.

- Jesus prays to the Father for all believers.

John 17:21
That they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.

He Is Infinite

Psalm 147:5
Great is our Lord, and mighty in power; His understanding is infinite.

Romans 1:20
For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse.

- Limitless: He cannot be measured, contained, or fully grasped.
- Supreme: He is not a superior being but a supreme being.
- Eternal: He always existed and always will exist.

He Is Holy and Righteous

- God's perfection is the standard for our moral character and the motivation for our lifestyle. Our moral code should follow His standard of Holiness.

1 Peter 1:16
Because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."

Hebrew for "Holy" is '*Qadas*'—Something withheld from ordinary use; treated with special care.

- He is untouched and unstained by any form of evil.

Hebrews 1:13
But to which of the angels has He ever said: "Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool?"

James 1:13
Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God;" for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone.

- God delights in righteousness.

Jeremiah 9:24
But let him who glories glory in this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD, exercising loving kindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight," says the Lord.

- He only does and only commands others to do what is right according to His own Law.

Genesis 18:25
Far be it from You to do such a thing as this, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous should be as the wicked; far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?"

He Is Sovereign

- As Sovereign—He is absolute Master, Ruler, Lord, and everything yields and bows to Him.

1 Timothy 1:17
Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

- In His Sovereignty, He has chosen to entrust man with a free will, and He has chosen to respect man's choice.
- God is so secure in His Sovereignty that He is not afraid to give up control. As far as a human being's "free will" is concerned, God has given up control.
- Man's freedom to choose and the choices he makes, even if it opposes the purposes of God, in no way undermines, lessens, or weakens God's Sovereignty. God is still in authority.
- However, man's choices also have their consequences.

God is so secure in His Sovereignty that He has given up control over our lives. He has put the ability to control into our hands. This is called "free will!" God respects our choices!

He Is Just

- God respects everyone's choices and rewards them according to their choices and actions. He doesn't show any favoritism or partiality.
- God's justice also involves judgment …

God is both just and the justifier.

Psalm 94:1-3
1 O Lord God, to whom vengeance belongs—O God, to whom vengeance belongs, shine forth!
2 Rise up, O Judge of the earth; render punishment to the proud.
3 Lord, how long will the wicked, how long will the wicked triumph?

… and acting in a fair way and doing what is inherently right.

Genesis 18:25
Far be it from You to do such a thing as this, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous should be as the wicked; far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?"

- It is a part of God's nature—It is not a standard that is contrary to God, to which He must conform.

Psalm 97:2
Clouds and darkness surround Him; righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne.

- In sending Jesus to be our Savior, God is both the just and the Justifier of those who have sinned.

Romans 3:26
To demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

He Is Truthful and Faithful

- Jesus Himself is truth.

John 14:6
Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

1 John 5:20
And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

- God's Word is truth.

John 17:17
Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

- God is truthful and He cannot lie.

Numbers 23:19
God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?

Titus 1:2
In hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began,

Hebrews 6:18
That by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us.

Therefore, everything He says is true.

He is Faithful. He keeps His promises.

Deuteronomy 7:8-9
8 But because the Lord loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers, the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.
9 Therefore know that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments.

- Faithfulness follows logically from immutability because if God does not change, then He cannot be unfaithful.
- Because you know God is Truth—you know you can absolutely rely on His Word.
- Because you know God is Faithful—you know He will never leave you or abandon you.

He Is a Loving and Good God

- God is Love.

1 John 4:8-10
8 He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.
9 In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.
10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

How good is your God?

Your conviction of the goodness of God should be absolute!
God is good, all the time!!!

- Love demonstrated.

Romans 5:6-8
6 For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.
7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die.
8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

John 3:16
For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

God is absolutely good all the time. God is so good. He cannot do me wrong. Even when He corrects me, He is doing it out of His goodness.

He Is Merciful and Gracious

- It is the unmerited favor and goodness of God. He shows it based on His generosity and goodness.
- So, if we have the right understanding about the goodness of God, we will be able to say the following verse with conviction:

> God is merciful and God is just.
> But in God, His mercy triumphs over His judgment.

Romans 8:28
And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose.

God's mercy is not a temporary thing or mood but an attribute of God's being, God has always been gracious and merciful.

Luke 1:50
And His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation.

Grace is a gift from God.

Ephesians 2:8
For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God.

His mercy is lavished upon all His works.

Psalm 145:9-10
9 The Lord is good to all, and His tender mercies are over all His works.
10 All Your works shall praise You, O Lord, and Your saints shall bless You.

Ephesians 1:7-8
7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace
8 which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence.

His grace brings us salvation.

Titus 2:11
For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men.

Mercy triumphs over judgment (James 2:13). While it is true that we reap of what we sow (Galatians 6:7-8), it is His mercy that "writes off" or "cancels" the full reaping of evil, for all the evil we have sown. It is because of His mercies that we are not consumed (Lamentations 3:22). He does not deal with us according to our sins, but instead extends mercy (Psalm 103:10,17). The Cross is the greatest expression of this. When we repent, we position ourselves to receive His mercy.

He Is Unchanging

Malachi 3:6
For I am the Lord, I do not change; therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob.

Hebrews 13:8
Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Desire to conform to His nature! He desires for His nature to be expressed through us.

Make decisions and choices aligned to His nature.

Relate to people aligned to the nature of God—forgiveness, love, peace, justice.

- God's nature does not change across the Old and New Testaments. He is the same God through time. What changes is the "Covenants"—the basis on which man relates to God, changes across the Old and New Testaments. The Old Testament reveals what man would experience if he attempted to relate to God based on Law/works—on what man is able to offer to God. The New Testament reveals what man would experience if he related to God based on grace given freely by God—on what God extends to man.
- He is today, exactly as He is revealed in the Old Testament, exactly as Jesus revealed Him to be in the New Testament.

The Names Of God Reveal His Nature

The names used to describe God tell us much about His character and being.

ADONAI, "Lord" or "Sovereign"

Genesis 19:2
And he said, "Here now, my lords, please turn in to your servant's house and spend the night, and wash your feet; then you may rise early and go on your way." And they said, "No, but we will spend the night in the open square."

John 4: 11
The woman said to Him, "Sir, You have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. Where then do You get that living water?"

Thus, Lord is also used as a title for men. (Meaning: master or owner, authorities, and supremacy).

ELOHIM, The source of all creation, the powerful God

Genesis 1:1
In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

(This cannot be expressed as singular; it is a plural for majesty).

THEOS

John 1:1
In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

It is a Greek equivalent of '*Elohim*.' It is never used for any being other than God Himself.

El, God

El-Shaddai, the Almighty, the Bountiful One, All-Sufficient One.

Genesis 17:1
When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless.

El-Elyon, The Most High God

Genesis 14:19
And he blessed him and said: "Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth.

El-Olam, Everlasting God

Genesis 21:33
Then Abraham planted a tamarisk tree in Beersheba, and there called on the name of the LORD, the Everlasting God.

I AM that I AM

Exodus 3:14
And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I

AM has sent me to you.'"

This Scripture reveals God as the eternal, self-sufficient, and self-existent one.

YAHWEH "The Lord"

Genesis 4:1
Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, "I have acquired a man from the Lord."

Jehovah Rapha: The Lord my Healer

Exodus 15:26
… "If you diligently heed the voice of the LORD your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I am the LORD who heals you."

Jehovah Nissi: The Lord is my Banner/Victory

Exodus 17:15
And Moses built an altar and called its name, The-Lord-Is-My-Banner.

Jehovah Jireh: The Lord is my Provider

Genesis 22:14
And Abraham called the name of the place, The- Lord -Will-Provide; as it is said to this day, "In the Mount of the Lord it shall be provided."

Jehovah Shalom: The Lord is Peace

Judges 6:24
So Gideon built an altar there to the Lord, and called it The-Lord-Is-Peace. To this day it is still in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.

Jehovah Sabboath: The Lord of Hosts

1 Samuel 1:3
This man went up from hi city yearly to worship and sacrifice to the Lord of hosts in Shiloh. Also the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, the priests of the Lord, were there.

Psalm 24:10
Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, He is the King of glory.

Jehovah Maccadeschecem: The Lord your Sanctifier

Exodus 31:13
"Speak also to the children of Israel, saying: 'Surely My Sabbaths you shall keep, for it is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I am the Lord who sanctifies you.

Jehovah Roi: The Lord is my Shepherd

Psalm 23:1
The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

Jehovah Sidkenu: The Lord our Righteousness

Jeremiah 23:6
In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell safely; now this is His name by which He will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

Jehovah Shammah: The Lord is Present

Ezekiel 48:35
All the way around shall be eighteen thousand cubits; and the name of the city from that day shall be: THE LORD IS THERE.

KEY MEMORY VERSES

Romans 1:20
For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse.

Our Father: Perhaps the greatest aspect of God's nature that we must grasp is that of "Father."
God is our Father!
The ultimate Father!
The perfect Father!

Colossians 1:15-17
15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.
16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.
17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.

APPLICATION

1. What new attributes about God have I discovered from this study that have changed my understanding of Him?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

2. List the different "I AM" names of God and their meanings. Reflect on how you can see life's situations in the light of who He is (For e.g., If there is sickness—see Him as your Healer, if there is a need—see Him as your Provider, if there is trouble—see Him as your Banner, your source of victory …).

_____

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2. SALVATION

(This lesson is designed to teach us the love of God and God's plan for man's salvation. We learn the doctrine of salvation and discover that New Testament salvation is a comprehensive package bringing forgiveness, healing, deliverance, preservation, and rescue, which we receive freely by grace through faith. This lesson will empower us believers to be well-grounded in God's ***love*** *and saving* ***grace.****)*

The Love Of God

The basis on which salvation is provided for us is God's love demonstrated through Jesus Christ.

What Is Love?

- Webster's Dictionary defines Love as "strong affection for another arising out of kinship or personal ties, warm attachment, enthusiasm, or devotion, unselfish, loyal, and benevolent concern for the good of another."
- God's love for us stems out of His relationship with us.
- Love is such an important need with mankind.
- Man's unending search for true love and acceptance takes most of his conscious energy.
- Since our need for love is eternal, the source also needs to be eternal.

Why Does God Love Us?

- He created us.
- It is God's character to love.

1 John 4:8
He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

What Are the Characteristics of God's Love?

A God-Established Love Relationship

God chose to love us (divine will). With His love, He Himself established a relationship with us.

An Undeserved Endowment

- He loves us just as we are. We do not need to be someone else to make God love us. God's love is intense and absolute.
- God's love cannot be bought! It is independent of our physical possessions or earthly attributes.
- God's love is unconditional, it cannot be earned. It is a gift!
- There is nothing we can do to make God love us more, nothing we can do to make God love us less.
- God's love for Israel is likened to a husband-wife relationship. God loved them in spite of their sins (Ezekiel 16).

It Is a Supreme Love

- **Sacrificial—**God's love is the supreme kind of sacrificial love.

John 3:16
For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

- **In Action**—God's love is not just in words. He followed it up with action and deed when He sent His Son Jesus Christ to die for our sins**.**

John 15:13
Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.

- **A Forgiving Love**—Our God is a forgiving God.

Jeremiah 31:34
No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."

Isaiah 43:25
I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake; And I will not remember your sins.

It Is an Everlasting Love

Jeremiah 31:3
The Lord has appeared of old to me, saying: "Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you.

- God's Love is not temporal/seasonal. It is everlasting.
- He does not discriminate in His love. He loves all equally.
- God is Faithful. He keeps His promises.

Characteristics of God's love:

1) A God-established love _____
2) God's love is _____
3) God's love is _____

The Plan Of Salvation

God's Original Plan for Man

Revelation 4:11
You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things and by Your will they exist and were created.

Man Was Created

- To glorify God.

1 Corinthians 11:7
For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God; but woman is the glory of man.

- To fellowship with Him.
- To be fruitful, multiply, and have dominion overall.

Genesis 1:26-28
26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."
27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.
28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

Man's Disobedience and Rebellion Against God

- Disobedience and rebellion are sin against God.

1 Samuel 15:21,23
21 But the people took of the plunder, sheep and oxen, the best of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice to the Lord your God in Gilgal.
23 For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have

rejected the word of the Lord, He also has rejected you from being king.

Sin and its Consequences

- We come short of the glory of God.

Romans 3:23
For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

What Is Sin?

In the Greek language, "sin" is "missing the mark."

A man's sin is his failure to fulfill his God-given function.

Consequences

This is the state of "fallen man" (an unsaved person):

- Inward spiritual death where we no longer have the life and nature of God in us.

Ephesians 4:18
Having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart.

Romans 5:12
Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned.

- Separation from God.

Isaiah 59:1-2
1 Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; nor His ear heavy, that it cannot hear.
2 But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear.

- The physical death of the body.

Hebrews 9:27
And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment.

Eternal banishment from the presence of God to the place called hell.

Matthew 25:41
Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels.

Revelation 20:12-15
12 And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.
13 The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.
14 Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.
15 And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

- Keeps away the blessings of God.

Jeremiah 5:24-25
24 They do not say in their heart, "Let us now fear the Lord our God, Who gives rain, both the former and the latter, in its season. He reserves for us the appointed weeks of the harvest."
25 Your iniquities have turned these things away, and your sins have withheld good from you.

- Enslaves us and keeps us in bondage.

Proverbs 5:22
His own iniquities entrap the wicked man, and he is caught in the cords of his sin.

John 8:34
Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin.

- Opens our life to demonic domination—sickness and death.

Ephesians 2:1-2
1 And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins,
2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience.

Man Cannot Save Himself

How many sins did it take for Adam and Eve to be banished from the presence of God?

- All our good works cannot save us—since even one sin is sufficient to separate us from God. Adam sinned once—and this led to the "Fall" and its damaging consequences.
- Our best actions are still filthy before God.

Isaiah 64:6
But we are all like an unclean thing, and all our righteousness are like filthy rags; we all fade as a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

- No other human being can mediate for us since all have sinned.

Romans 3:10
As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one."

The Purpose of Christ's Death and Resurrection

- To demonstrate God's love for us

Romans 5:8
But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

- To save sinners

1 Timothy 1:15
This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.

1 John 4:14
And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world.

- To bring us to God

1 Peter 3:18
For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit.

- To destroy the works of the devil

1 John 3:8
He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

- Jesus Christ appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself—once and for all.

Hebrews 9:26
He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.

- Jesus Christ is able to save all people who come to Him with faith.

Hebrews 7:25
Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

To those who believe in Jesus

Christianity is not a religion. Christianity is a relationship that is established for you and me with God through the Cross of Christ!

- Forgiveness of sins

Acts 10:43
To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins.

1 John 2:12
I write to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for His name's sake.

- Receive eternal life (the life and nature of God).

1 John 5:11-12
11 And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.
12 He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

- Salvation.

Romans 10:9-10
9 That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.
10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

- Brought out of darkness and into His Kingdom.

Colossians 1:13-14
13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,
14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

- Made children of God.

John 1:12
But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.

- Made new creation.

2 Corinthians 5:17
Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

- … and so much more …

No Salvation Apart from Jesus Christ

Acts 4:12
Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.

John 14:6
Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

How Do I Receive Salvation Provided Because of His Love?

- Repent and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and in what He did on the Cross.

Salvation is like a comprehensive life insurance package.

Acts 16:31
So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household."

- Acknowledge Him as the only Lord and Savior of your life.

Romans 10:9-10
9 That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.
10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

- Welcome Him into your life.

John 1:12
But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.

- The Bible also calls this experience as being "born again."

John 3:3
Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

Salvation (*Sozo*) Is a Complete Package

'Sozo' is a Greek word found in our New Testament more than 110 times.

'Sozo' is the most commonly used Greek word for **salvation** in the New Testament.

'Sozo' is a verb—an action word. Something that is done. Something that happens because of a work of God.

The word '*sozo*' is a comprehensive word that includes spiritual salvation, i.e., forgiveness of sins, healing from sickness, deliverance from every work of the enemy, rescue or preservation from danger and harm, and total wholeness.

It means to be saved, healed, delivered, victorious, rescued, preserved. It means all these things at the same time.

'Sozo' means to be saved from being under the devil's power and restored into the wholeness of God's order and well-being, by the power of God's Spirit.

'Sozo' means spiritual salvation—forgiveness of sins.

Matthew 1:21
And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His nameJesus, for He will save His people from their sins.

Acts 4:12
Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.

Romans 10:9
That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

Ephesians 2:8
For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God.

'*Sozo*' means physical healing. The woman with the issue of blood received *sozo.*

Matthew 9:22 (NIV)
Jesus turned and saw her. 'Take heart, daughter,' he said, 'your faith has healed *(sozo)* **you.' And the woman was healed** *(sozo)* **from that moment.**

The folks in the region of Gennesaret were touched by the divine '*sozo:'*

Foundations Track 1

Mark 6:56
And wherever he went—into villages, towns or countryside they placed the sick in the marketplaces. They begged him to let them touch even the edge of his cloak, and all who touched him were healed *(sozo)***.**

Blind Bartimaeus knew '*sozo:*'

Mark 10:52
'Go,' said Jesus, 'your faith has healed (*sozo***) you.' Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.**

James 5:13-16
13 Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms.
14 Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.
15 And the prayer of faith will save (*sozo***) the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.**
16 Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

'Sozo' means deliverance from demonic powers.

It was the *sozo* of God that delivered the Gerasene demoniac:

Luke 8:36 (NIV)
Those who had seen it told the people how the demon-possessed man had been cured *(sozo)***.**

And Jude knew this as well:

Jude 1:5 (NIV)
Though you already know all this, I want to remind you that the Lord delivered *(sozo)* **his people out of Egypt, but later destroyed those who did not believe**.

Sozo means rescue/preservation from danger.

The disciples cried out to be saved from sinking in the storm.

Matthew 8:25
Then His disciples came to Him and awoke Him, saying, "Lord, save (*sozo***) us! We are perishing!**

Paul wrote to his friend Timothy about God's power to deliver:

2 Timothy 4:18 (NIV)
The Lord will rescue (*sozo***) me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory forever and ever. Amen.**

Sozo is for everyone.

Sozo is for everyone!!!

Matthew 18:11
For the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost.

Sozo is received by grace through faith.

Matthew 9:21-22
21 For she said to herself, "If only I may touch His garment, I shall be made well."
22 But Jesus turned around, and when He saw her He said, "Be of good cheer, daughter; your faith has made you well." And the woman was made well from that hour.

Ephesians 2:8-9
8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,
9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.

Sozo happens when you believe in your heart and confess with your mouth.

Romans 10:9-10
9 That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.
10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

The Doctrine Of Salvation

One must understand the doctrine of salvation to communicate it to others. These are foundational truths that one must know, to effectively lead someone to Christ.

The doctrine of Salvation has 5 main components: **God, Man, Christ, Grace, Faith.**

God

Is just—therefore must punish sin.

Ezekiel 18:4
…The soul who sins is the one who will die.

Is merciful—therefore does not want to punish us.

1 John 4:8
Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

Foundations Track 1

Man

Is a sinner

Romans 3:23
For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Cannot save himself

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIV)
8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God,
9 not by works, so that no one can boast.

Christ

He is the infinite God-Man

John 1:1
In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:14
The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

He paid for our sins and purchased a place in heaven for us which He offers as a gift.

Isaiah 53:6
We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Grace

Salvation is a FREE gift.

Romans 6:23
For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Faith

You are saved not by the quality of your faith, but by the object of your faith!

What it is not: Mere intellectual mental assent nor natural-faith.

What it is: "Trusting in Jesus Christ alone for salvation."

Ephesians 2:8
For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith…

Romans 10:9
That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

The Determining Factor

- God has already done for us everything He ever needs to do to provide salvation to all. Christ died for every human being.
- It is His will for all to be saved and He extends grace to all.
- The only thing left is for each individual to receive by faith what God is offering freely out of His immense love and grace.

Misconceptions

"I believe in Jesus, but I also believe in other saints, Mary, gurus …"

Biblical Response: Acts 4:12

There is no salvation in any other.

The doctrine of Inclusion

"Everyone is 'automatically' saved because Jesus died for everyone."

Biblical Response: John 3:16

We are to repent and believe in Jesus Christ to be saved.

God has done everything on His part for salvation. What about you?

A Misunderstanding of the Doctrine of Predestination

"God has already decided who is going to be saved and who is not."

Predestination is NOT pre-determination.

Biblical Response: Romans 8:29-30

God has foreknowledge on the decision each one will make. However, He does not predetermine the choice we will make. The choice is still ours to make. Predestination is what He has determined to form us into—the image of His Son, and it's not about the choices we will make.

KEY MEMORY VERSES

Acts 4:12
Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

Hebrews 7:25
Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

Romans 10:9-10
9 That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.
10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

APPLICATION

1. Have you trusted in Jesus Christ as your Savior and committed your life to Him? In a few lines, describe how you felt on the day you made that commitment?

2. Do I understand the plan of Salvation clear enough to explain this to someone else? What are some ways in which I can start a conversation to share the plan of salvation with a close friend?

3. Do I understand that Salvation is a complete package—complete redemption from the Fall and its consequences? List all that the word '*sozo*' implies?

3. Assurance Of Salvation And Forgiveness

(This lesson is designed to teach us the truth that every believer in Christ is assured of salvation and forgiveness that they have received freely from God. Believers can know for sure that they are saved and overcome feelings of guilt, shame, and condemnation.)

Assurance Of Salvation

Is it possible for you to know that your sins are forgiven and be confident of your salvation? Can you be sure that you are on your way to heaven? Can you know without any doubt that God has saved you from the eternal consequences of sin?

Foundations Elements of Assurance of Salvation

You can know without a doubt that you are saved. You can have the confident assurance or guarantee that you are saved and forgiven.

These elements provide insight into this assurance:

- The Bible's authority
- Christ's finished work
- Your faith in Christ
- The Spirit's assurance
- The evidence of a transformed life

The Bible's Authority

God has provided a solid foundation of truth in His Word. His Word is truth (John 17:17). His Word of promise is the guarantee (assurance) of our salvation.

1 John 5:11-13
11 And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.
12 He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.
13 These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

John 5:24
Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.

Christ's Finished Work

On the Cross, Jesus said, "… *It is finished* ..." (John 19:30).

Nothing else is required and there is nothing more that needs to be done to obtain salvation.

Hebrews 9:12
Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.

Hebrews 10:14
For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.

Hebrews 10:18
Now where there is remission of these, there is no longer an offering for sin.

Ephesians 2:8-9
8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,
9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.

Your Faith in Christ

All that God requires is that we have and demonstrate faith in Jesus Christ as our Savior.

John 3:16
For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

1 John 5:1
Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him.

- ✓ Faith is not a feeling. Sometimes you may "feel" saved and sometimes you may "not feel" anything. Faith is not a dependence on our good works.
- ✓ Faith is a choice we make to trust God.
- ✓ Faith is a simple and yet complete trust in who He is (He cannot lie), His Word (what He says is final), and His finished work on the Cross.

The Spirit's Assurance

The Holy Spirit brings to us a deep inner assurance of our salvation. We know we are saved.

Romans 8:15-16
15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."
16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.

Galatians 4:6
And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!"

1 John 3:24
Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

1 John 5:10
He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; he who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of His Son.

The Evidence of a Transformed Life

Our lives being continually transformed into the image of Jesus Christ is evidence that we are in Him.

2 Corinthians 5:17
Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

God works in us and empowers us to work out our salvation—show that we are saved and walk as people who are saved.

Philippians 2:12-13
12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;
13 for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

1 John 3:6-9
6 Whoever abides in Him does not sin. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him.
7 Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous.
8 He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.
9 Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.

It does not mean we are "perfect" and "flawless." But it does mean that we do not "continue" in sin or live the way we used to live.

1 John 5:18
We know that whoever is born of God does not sin; but he who has been born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him.

The Assurance Of Forgiveness

When we sin—do things that we know are not right in the sight of God—the Holy Spirit within us is "grieved" and He lets us know. We are thus "convicted" by the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 4:29-32
29 Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.
30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.
31 Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.
32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

However, when we sin, we realize we have done wrong, we choose not to continue in it, and ask the Lord to forgive us.

Sin is not a violation of a Law but of a Person that's God alone.

1 John 1:7-9
7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.
8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Once you have confessed—you can know you are forgiven. It is gone.

1 John 2:12
I write to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for His name's sake.

- ✓ Forgiveness is the loving, voluntary cancellation of a debt.
- ✓ Forgiveness leads to restoration and renewal of relationship.

Fundamental Aspects of Forgiveness

* Is based on love.
* Is based on the price that Jesus paid.
* Sin is totally wiped clean.
* Forgiveness is continual.

The price paid for our forgiveness is a one-time event. Jesus died once. However, we receive forgiveness as we confess and repent.

1 John 1:9
If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

How Does A Person Receive Forgiveness?

Repentance and Faith

We turn away from our own sinful ways.

Isaiah 55:6-7
6 Seek the Lord while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near.
7 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.

Proverbs 28:13
He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.

Psalm 38:18
For I will declare my iniquity; I will be in anguish over my sin.

Psalm 51:17
The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart—these, O God, You will not despise.

True repentance claims no rights while asking mercy for wrongs done. Real repentance expresses a broken, undemanding heart.

Acts 10:43
To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins.

Isn't God a loving God? Doesn't He unconditionally forgive people freely of all sin without their coming to Him in repentance? **No!**

- ✓ When He gives us the initial forgiveness in salvation, He does so in response to our repentance.
- ✓ He forgives us when we begin believing that Christ alone can save us by His own sacrifice and life.

1 John 1:9
If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Overcoming Feelings of Condemnation

Forgiveness is something God does. It is not rooted in our own emotions. It doesn't depend on whether we forgive ourselves. Forgiveness is what God does in the books of heaven when He marks "canceled" over our debt of sin. We are forgiven when He declares us legally acquitted, regardless of how we might be feeling at the moment.

Most of us struggle with feelings of guilt and shame. Long after we have confessed our sins to God, we are apt to feel unforgiven. We might fear that we have been rejected by God.

Pictures That Assure One's Forgiveness

God Bags up Our Sins to Throw Them Away

Job 14:17
My transgression is sealed up in a bag, and You cover my iniquity.

God Blows Away the Sin Barrier

Isaiah 44:22
I have blotted out, like a thick cloud, your transgressions, and like a cloud, your sins …

God Takes Away Our Sins

Psalm 103:12
As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.

God Treats Our Sin Like a Vanquished Foe

Micah 7:19
He will again have compassion on us, and will subdue our iniquities. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.

God Puts Our Sins Out of His Sight

Isaiah 38:17
Indeed it was for my own peace that I had great bitterness; but You have lovingly delivered my soul from the pit of corruption, for You have cast all my sins behind Your back.

God Puts Our Sins Out of His Mind

Jeremiah 31:34
… For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.

God Cancels the Debt of our Sin

Isaiah 43:25
I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake; and I will not remember your sins.

God Removes Sin's Stain and Restores Purity

Isaiah 1:18
… Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

God Buries Our Sin in the Sea of Forgetfulness

Micah 7:19
… You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.

Romans 8:1
There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

There is a difference between "conviction" and "condemnation." The Holy Spirit convicts, but He does not condemn. It is the devil, who is the "accuser of the brethren" who suppresses us with feelings of guilt, condemnation, worthlessness, etc.

Revelation 12:10
Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.

Resist the condemnation the enemy brings.

What is granted by divine authority is not a doubt!

<u>Sidenote</u>:

- ✓ Forgiveness is not a license to continue in sin.
- ✓ If we continue in sin, it does hinder our ability to relate to the Lord because we know we are not doing what is right.

1 John 1:6-7 (NIV)
6 If we claim to have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth.
7 But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from all sin.

1 John 3:21 (NIV)
Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God.

- Some of us may be in bondage to certain addictions and will need additional help to get free.

Conclusion

Avoid truth decay: Read your Bible every day!

Feelings are like thermometers. They fluctuate. Sometimes you feel "great." Sometimes you feel "lousy." Just as your knowledge of your earthly citizenship is not based on how you feel, **your salvation is not based on feelings but on God's promises.**

When a person is in Christ, he is safe. All that the devil may do is worry him with doubts and unclear images. There may be times when you doubt your assurance.

Choose not to depend on your feelings—but on the foundation of His Word, His finished work, and the assurance of His Spirit in your life.

Avoid truth decay: Read your Bible every day!

[In this lesson, we DO NOT want to get into a discussion on the question: "Can a Christian lose his salvation?" This requires a thorough examination and time to discuss. However, we need to know that it is important for a believer to "work out" his salvation with fear and trembling (Philippians 2:12) and maintain a walk of holiness consistent with the Word of God (Hebrews 12:14). It is possible for those who have tasted of the things of the Kingdom to fall away (Hebrews 6:4-6), to become a castaway (1 Corinthians 9:27), to make a shipwreck of their faith (1 Timothy 1:19), to draw back (Hebrews 10:26,38-39), and sin unto death (1 John 5:16-17)].

Consider the following guidelines for maintaining assurance.

- ✓ Read your Bible, remind yourself of the solid foundation on which your salvation stands.
- ✓ Communicate with God through prayer and confess every known sin.
- ✓ Obey God's commandments and do what you know is right.
- ✓ Spend time with strong Christians and let their love help you.
- ✓ Reach out in concern to others because you love them.
- ✓ Recognize that your doubts and depressions may be more emotional than spiritual. This will help you avoid unnecessary feelings of guilt because of your supposed lack of faith.

KEY MEMORY VERSES

Romans 8:1
There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

Romans 8:15-16
15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."
16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.

Psalm 103:12
As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.

APPLICATION

1. List the Foundational elements that assure you of your Salvation in Christ.

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2. Write down what can help you overcome feelings of condemnation, based on the section "Pictures that assures one's forgiveness."

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4. Overcoming Temptation

(This lesson teaches us some facts about temptation and how God empowers us to overcome temptation and live victorious Christian lives.)

Overcoming Temptation

We will all face temptation. Temptation is essentially an inducement to sin. It takes us away from God's best for our lives. Continual yielding to a certain kind of temptation brings us into bondage to that and it could become an addictive habit or a stronghold (an area of thought or habit that is controlled by the enemy) in our lives. However, we can overcome temptation and live victoriously in all areas of our lives.

Three Sources Of Temptation

Temptations in the World

1 John 2:15-16
15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.
16 For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.

The term "world" is often used to describe the community of sinful humanity that possesses a spirit of rebellion against God.

1 John 5:19
We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one.

Because of its opposition to God, the world values those things which are contrary to God's will: "*the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life*."

1 John 2:16
For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.

The world's temptations to the believer are thus two-fold: lust for the sensual and pride in mastery of his own life.

The attractions of the things in the world tempt a believer to become absorbed in the world's system.

James 4:4
Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

James 1:27
Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.

Temptations of the Flesh

By "flesh" the Bible means the evil desires of the body and soul (mind, will, and emotions). We still live in a physical body and hence will still face these.

Some of these are listed in the verses below:

Galatians 5:19-21
19 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness,
20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies,
21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

James 1:13-16
13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God;" for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone.
14 But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed.
15 Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.
16 Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.

Process of temptation:

- ✓ Drawn by our own desires.
- ✓ Enticed—our will is weakened. (Greek "to entrap.")
- ✓ Desire has conceived—yielded to the desire. This results in sin.

Having my desire aroused for something wrong and being drawn by my own desires is still not sin. I may even come close to being enticed—and this is still not sin. Only when I have yielded to the desire, it is then that I have sinned.

Many Christians unnecessarily condemn themselves, because of wrong desires being aroused in them. This is not sin. Only when you yield to those desires, either by committing a wrong act or by willfully contemplating along those desires, have you

sinned.

Temptations by satan

Matthew 4:3
Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."

1 Thessalonians 3:5
For this reason, when I could no longer endure it, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter had tempted you, and our labor might be in vain.

Satan is the tempter.

Satan tempts us in three realms—lust of the eyes, lust of the flesh, and the pride of life.

Satan's primary method in presenting temptation is deception.

Genesis 3:6
So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.

I John 2:16
For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.

Good for food ➔➔➔ "Lust of the Flesh"

Pleasing to the eye➔➔➔ "Lust of the Eye"

Desirable for gaining wisdom ➔➔➔ "Pride of Life"

2 Corinthians 11:3
But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

Revelation 12:9
So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Jesus Faced And Overcame Temptation

Matthew 4:1-11
1 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.
2 And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry.
3 Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones

become bread."
4 But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"
5 Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple,
6 and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: He shall give His angels charge over you,' and, 'In their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.'"
7 Jesus said to him, "It is written again, 'You shall not tempt the Lord your God.'"
8 Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory.
9 And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me."
10 Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.'"
11 Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him.

Hebrews 4:15
For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

Hebrews 2:18
For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.

A quick look at how the enemy tempts us:

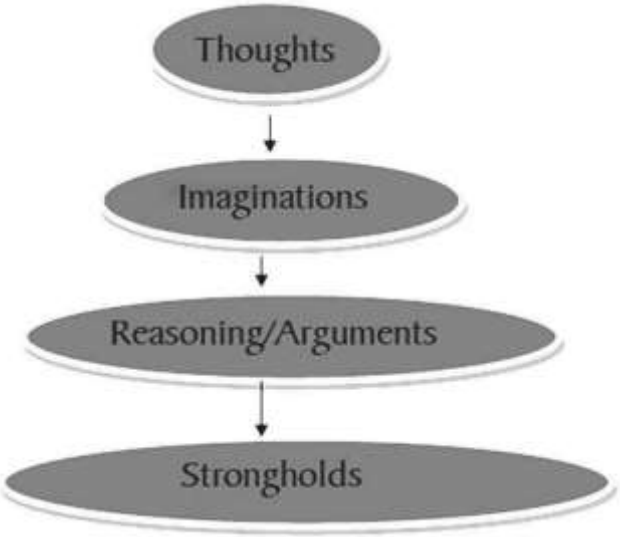
Satan's schemes are really mind games—they have to do with attacks on the mind.

Jesus was tempted in all areas, and in the same way that we are tempted.

The only way satan could show Jesus all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time was through the imagination.

Jesus was in the wilderness. Therefore, the only way satan could have "taken" Jesus to Jerusalem and placed Him on the pinnacle of the temple was through the imagination.

We conclude therefore, that satan's primary way of working against us is in the mind—by intercepting our normal thought process with his thoughts, ideas, suggestions, pictures, imaginations, and so on.



Satan's thoughts, pictures, imaginations that come into our minds are intended to stir up our own fleshly desires, appetites, and passions. When our own desires are stirred up, we

are drawn by them, our will to resist is weakened, and if we do not exercise restraint, we yield, which leads to sin.

Having a bad thought, picture, or imagination, thrown into your mind does not constitute as sin. Thinking evil or acting on that thought is sin.

You cannot prevent these thoughts from coming, but you can prevent them from staying.

We Can Overcome Temptation And Live Victoriously

1 Corinthians 10:12-13
12 Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.
13 No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

Ephesians 4:23-24
23 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind,
24 and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

2 Peter 1:3
As His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,

1 John 5:1,4
1 Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him.
4 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.

We are a new creation inside and have the life and nature of God. We have been born to overcome. God has given us weapons to overcome.

A quick look at the progression in the verse below:

2 Corinthians 10:3-6
3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh.
4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds,
5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,
6 and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.

Crucify the Flesh. Renew the Mind

As believers our biggest battles are with our flesh—ungodly bodily desires of the body

and mind. We are to crucify the flesh and renew our minds continuously to live victoriously.

Weapons To Successfully Overcome Temptation

Power of the Cross

On the Cross, Jesus not only paid for our sins, but He also destroyed sin's power over our lives.

Whatever you tolerate will DOMINATE!!!

Romans 6:6,14
6 Knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.
14 For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

Through Christ's work on the Cross, the Christian is delivered from the results of sin and the power of sin. Acknowledging and recognizing and yielding to this truth is the basis of living victoriously.

"I acknowledge that sin and sinful habits have no power over me. I am free from the dominion of sin!"

Power of Consecration

1 Corinthians 6:9–11
9 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites,
10 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.
11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

In Christ we have been sanctified.

Sanctification (set apart, made holy) is what God has already done for me in Christ.

Consecration is what I do to sanctify myself so that I can walk in the natural, what has already been completed in the spirit.

God respects our wills. He will not override our wills. (e.g., Adam and Eve).

My will is involved. I align my will to God's will.

Just like your physical muscle, your will is your "emotional" muscle. You can strengthen

your will in the same way you can strengthen your physical muscle. Your will to resist something can be strengthened by the Word, the strength of the Spirit, through prayer, through declaration, and through constant practice.

Ephesians 4:27
… nor give place to the devil.

Give the devil no entrance. Keep all doors closed.

Colossians 3:1-2
1 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.
2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

Choose to Set Your Affections on Godly Things

For example: I pray and say, "God I consecrate my mind, my emotions, my desires, my sexual appetites, all to you." I am thus making a declaration stating that my mind, my emotions, my desires, my sexual appetites are all consecrated to God.

Consecration in Daily Life

Stay Away

If you don't take the first bite, you won't want another one.

Fasting will shut down your bodily appetites for a few days. But living the fasted life, keeps ungodly desires continuously shut down.

- Keep away from obvious areas of temptation.

Psalm 101:3
I will set nothing wicked before my eyes; I hate the work of those who fall away; it shall not cling to me.

- Guard your eyes.

Matthew 5:27-30
27 You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not commit adultery.'
28 But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.
29 If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.
30 And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.

1 Thessalonians 5:22
Abstain from every form of evil.

Self-Defense Strategy

Set some boundaries to protect yourself.

Amputation

If something sinful is on, deal with it severely. It may be painful for a time, but the wound will heal.

Be Extra Cautious in Moments of Vulnerability

In moments of great crisis, or great triumph, in moments of depression, loneliness, pain, hurt, great need, etc. you are vulnerable. Your reasoning is warped. What was once wrong suddenly seems alright. Your will is at its weakest. So be on double guard during such moments.

Know when you are weak and refuse to make any important decisions during such moments and do not expose yourself. Satan's deceptions are strongest during such moments. It is easy for a lie to appear as truth in such moments.

2 Samuel 11:1
It happened in the spring of the year, at the time when kings go out to battle, that David sent Joab and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the people of Ammon and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem.

Power of the Word

Psalm 17:4
Concerning the works of men, by the word of Your lips, I have kept away from the paths of the destroyer.

Psalm 119:9
How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word.

- ✓ The Word is like fire—it purifies.
- ✓ The Word is like a hammer—it breaks the hard and difficult parts of me.
- ✓ The Word is like water—it washes and cleanses me.
- ✓ … and much more …

Renew your mind with the Word of God.

Romans 8:5-8
5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.
6 For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.
7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.
8 So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

Use Scripture verses to guard your mind.

Defend your mind against evil thoughts.

The carnal mind desires the things of the flesh—but a renewed mind pursues the things of the Spirit.

Meditate in the Word concerning the area of your struggle. For instance:

Mind

Philippians 4:8
Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy— meditate on these things.

Women

Matthew 5:27-30
27 "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not commit adultery.'
28 But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.
29 If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.
30 And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.

I meditate in the Word concerning the area of my struggle.
I confess the Word.

Proverbs 6:25
Do not lust after her beauty in your heart, nor let her allure you with her eyelids.

Power of the Spirit

Galatians 5:22-23 (self-control)
22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.
23 Against such there is no law.

The Holy Spirit empowers me to have self-control or discipline, self-governing ability. He gives me all the strength I need to master and manage my body.

2 Timothy 1:7 (self-control or discipline)
For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

Romans 8:1-13,26
1 There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.
2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.
3 For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh,
4 that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.
5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.
6 For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.
7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.
8 So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.
9 But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.
10 And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.
11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.
12 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live,
13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.
26 Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

With the help of the Holy Spirit, I put to death the ungodly desires of my body.

The Holy Spirit takes a hold of us together against the weaknesses of the flesh.

Galatians 5:16,24-25
16 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh,
24 And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.
25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

Walk—regulate your entire life—yielded to the Spirit of God.

A small prayer that I have prayed many times: "Holy Spirit, please help me!" Stay calm always! This is important to stay yielded to the Spirit of God.

The Spirit of God is like fire—His presence burns up the uncleanness in me. So, I ask for more of the fire of the Spirit to burn in me.

Matthew 3:11
I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

Malachi 3:2-4
2 "But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner's fire and like launderers' soap.
3 He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; He will purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer to the Lord. an offering in righteousness.
4 "Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasant to the Lord, as in the days of old, as in former years.

* The anointing breaks the yoke and removes burdens.
* You are set free in an instant—but you must continue to walk in these spiritual realities to stay free.
* Prayer aligns our wills to God's will.

Hebrews 5:7-9,
7 Who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear,
8 though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.
9 And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him,

Matthew 26:38-39,42
38 Then He said to them, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me."
39 He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will."
42 Again, a second time, He went away and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if this cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done."

As with Jesus, so also in our lives, very often, we may enter a time of prayer where our wills are not totally given to doing His will. And as we go through a time of prayer in the Father's presence, very often we emerge, having our wills perfectly aligned to His will. We come from our time of prayer saying, "Your will be done." Prayer helps align our wills to the Father's will, so that we are ready to carry out His purposes on the earth.

Romans 8:26-27
26 Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.
27 Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

The word "helps" means to "take hold of together with us, against." Through prayer, the Holy Spirit takes a hold of together with us, against the weaknesses of the flesh.

Power of Declaration

Revelation 12:11
And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.

1 Peter 5:8-9
8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.
9 Submit to God. Be strong in the faith. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.

Declare what the blood of Jesus has done for you.

During His temptation, each time Jesus responded by saying "It is written ..."

The spoken Word is the sword of the Spirit, which we must wield.

Resist temptations and the powers of darkness bringing those temptations by speaking the word of God.

James 4:7
Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

James 3:3-6
3 Indeed, we put bits in horses' mouths that they may obey us, and we turn their whole body.
4 Look also at ships: although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires.
5 Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles!
6 And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell.

Understand the power of the tongue. The tongue is like a ship's rudder, or a horse's bridle.

Speak the desired outcome of holiness and purity.

Speak to your body declaring it as sanctified and holy. Speak over your emotions, your sexual appetites, and bodily desires declaring them to be sanctified and holy unto God.

Power of Positive Influence

1 Corinthians 15:33
Do not be deceived: "Evil company corrupts good habits."

Ephesians 5:11
And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.

1 Corinthians 5:11
But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner—not even to eat with such a person.

The words you hear, the reasoning of those around you, their standards, behavior, and choices—also influence you.

Have as role models those who are way ahead of you—those who will challenge you to be better than what you are.

You can break free from long-standing sins that have been controlling you.

When faced with temptation, apply these truths to fight it. Victory does not come automatically, without a fight.

Some areas of "bondage" (sinful behavior, addictions) will need additional help to overcome. Speak to your Life Group leader, pastor, or mentor to get help to break free.

KEY MEMORY VERSES

1 John 2:15-16
15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.
16 For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life - is not of the Father but is of the world.

1 Corinthians 10:12-13
12 Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.
13 No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

Ephesians 4:23-24
23 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind,
24 and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

APPLICATION

1. How can you best equip yourself to overcome temptation?

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2. Are there areas of temptation/sin that you fall into because of the kind of company/friends you have? What changes can you make to keep yourself from falling into sin?

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5. PRAYER

(This lesson is designed to teach us the basics of prayer and inspire us to develop a strong personal life of prayer.)

Prayer Is Communion With God

Prayer is simply communion with God—you talking to God, expressing your heart to God, and God revealing His heart to you. It is a two-way communication.

Prayer Is God's Invitation to a Place of Intimacy with Him

Luke 11:1
Now it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, that one of His disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples."

Luke 18:1
Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart.

God set up the system of prayer. God calls us to pray so that we can become intimate with Him, know Him, wait upon Him, and be renewed by His strength. God has promised to answer.

Jesus Himself is our greatest example of being a man of prayer.

Mark 1:35
Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed.

Luke 6:12
Now it came to pass in those days that He went out to the mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.

Since prayer is a spiritual activity—the posture in prayer does not matter. You can kneel, sit, or stand. We do not need to use the rosary in prayer. We do not have to venerate a saint in prayer. We do not need a picture, image, or idol to use in prayer. We do not use vain repetitions and chants in prayer. We don't just read a prayer out of a prayer book without our being heart in it.

God Hears Us When We Pray

1 Peter 3:12
For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their prayers; but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.

Jeremiah 29:12
Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you.

Psalm 65:2
O You who hear prayer, to You all flesh will come.

Proverbs 15:29
The Lord is far from the wicked, but He hears the prayer of the righteous.

Psalm 141:2
Let my prayer be set before You as incense, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

God Promises to Answer When We Pray

Matthew 7:7-11
7 "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.
8 For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.
9 Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone?
10 Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent?
11 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!

Matthew 21:22
And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive.

Any failure in prayer can never be attributed to God. Any failure in prayer has to do with man's side of things. Often, we must accept that we cannot explain why some prayers did not produce the outcomes we expected or in the timeframe we expected them. We do not change "truth" to explain our failure. We accept the fact that we are still learning how to pray effectively. So, in spite of all failures, we continue in our journey in prayer, adhering to the truths concerning prayer as revealed in God's Word.

God desires for us to come to a place in prayer, where every prayer we pray, is answered. Jesus is our Standard—our Model. He never prayed a prayer that went unanswered.

Prayer Changes Us

- Our strength is renewed.
- Our wills become aligned to His will.
- Our desires and affections change.

Prayer Is Partnering with God in Shaping the World Around Us and Creating History

- God intervenes in our situations.
- Prayer is us partnering with God, inviting God to establish His rule and dominion in our world.

What Can I Do In Prayer?

Why Pray?

Prayer is such a privilege that we cannot overlook or neglect the exercise of prayer.

Matthew 6:9-13
9 In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name.
10 Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
11 Give us this day our daily bread.
12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
13 And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

- Pray to commune with Him: *Our Father in heaven.*
- Pray to adore, worship, and honor Him: *Hallowed be Your name.*
- Pray His rule and dominion on the earth: *Your kingdom come.*
- Pray His will, purpose, and plan to be established: *Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.*
- Pray for all needs—spiritual, emotional, physical, financial, and other needs: *Give us this day our daily bread.*
- Pray for forgiveness and cleansing: *And forgive us our debts,*
- Pray to forgive others: *As we forgive our debtors.*
- Pray to overcome temptation: *And do not lead us into temptation*,
- Pray to overcome and triumph over demonic opposition: *But deliver us from the evil one.*
- Pray to give God all the glory and praise: *For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.*

Different Types Of Prayer

Ephesians 6:18
Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints.

This implies praying always with all kinds of prayer.

1 Timothy 2:1
Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men,

We see here different expressions of prayer: supplications, prayers, intercessions, giving of thanks, and so on. Some of the kinds of prayer we see in Scripture are:

Prayer of Asking and Receiving

This is the kind of prayer we use when we want to ask and receive something specific from God.

Matthew 7:7-11
7 "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.
8 For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.
9 Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone?
10 Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent?
11 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!

Mark 11:24
Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.

John 16:23-24
23 "And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you.
24 Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

This is what we do when we wish to express our gratitude to God or express faith in God concerning a thing we consider done, even before seeing it in the natural.

1 Timothy 2:1
Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men,

Philippians 4:6
Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;

Prayer of Consecration

This is what we use when we are in a posture of surrender and yielding our will to God's directive and leading.

Matthew 26:37-44
37 And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed.
38 Then He said to them, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me."
39 He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will."
40 Then He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "What! Could you not watch with Me one hour?
41 Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."
42 Again, a second time, He went away and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if this cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done."
43 And He came and found them asleep again, for their eyes were heavy.
44 So He left them, went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words.

Prayer of Agreement

This is what we do when praying along with others for a specific matter to be established on earth.

Matthew 18:19
Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven.

Acts 1:14
These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

Acts 2:1
When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

Acts 4:29-31
29 "Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word,
30 by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus."
31 And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.

Prayer of Repentance/Confession

This is what we use when we acknowledge our wrongdoing and by faith receive God's forgiveness and cleansing.

1 John 1:7-9
7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.
8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Prayer of Intercession/Praying for Others

Ephesians 6:18
Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints.

1 Timothy 2:1
Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men,

Job 9:32
For He is not a man, as I am, that I may answer Him, and that we should go to court together.

Job 16:21
Oh, that one might plead for a man with God, as a man pleads for his neighbor!

Prayer in the Spirit (in tongues)

1 Corinthians 14:2,15,28
2 For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries.
15 What is the conclusion then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding.
28 But if there is no interpreter, let him keep silent in church, and let him speak to himself and to God.

Prayer of Faith for Healing

James 5:14
Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.

Prayer of Commissioning—when appointing or releasing people into ministry

Acts 13:3
Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away.

Acts 14:23
So when they had appointed elders in every church, and prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

Prayer of Communion/Fellowship

This prayer is when you are simply sharing your heart/thoughts/feelings with God and tuning in to what He shares with you.

Psalm 62:8
Trust in Him at all times, you people; pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us.

1 John 1:3
That which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

These different kinds of prayer—each serve different purposes and may be used at different times (in different situations).

There are different "rules" that govern different types of prayer—that is, we do not pray all kinds of prayer the same way.

Foundations For Prayer

There are three key foundations for prayer:

- Knowing who God is—knowing the nature of God.
- Knowing who you are in Christ—the privileges and authority you have in Christ.
- Faith—knowing how to receive by faith in God.

Knowing Who God Is

We need to know who God is—His nature to pray accurately.
We know God, His nature, and attributes through His Word.
When you know who God is, it is easy for you to pray according to what He would purpose.

Knowing Who You Are in Christ

We need to know the privileges and authority we have in Christ.
This gives us confidence in prayer—before God, and during adversity.
Prayer is one of the ways we exercise our authority on the earth.

Faith

James 1:5-7
5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.
6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.
7 For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord;

We need to believe (have faith) that we will receive to see the results of our prayers.

How To Pray The "Prayer Of Asking And Receiving"

We now discuss the "how to" or guidelines of the most common kind of praying all of us normally do.

Pray to the Father in Jesus' Name

John 16:23-24
23 And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you.
24 Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

It is perfectly fine to talk directly to Jesus and the Holy Spirit because we fellowship with the Lord Jesus (1 Corinthians 1:9) and with the Holy Spirit (2 Corinthians 13:14).

Address your prayer to the Father in the name of Jesus. We do not have to pray to any saint, priest, or Mary.

Pray According to God's Revealed Will

1 John 5:14-15
14 Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.
15 And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.

James 4:3
You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures.

We know God's revealed will from His written Word and based on who He is.

In life-situations where we do not know the will of God, we attempt to first discern His will by the inner leading of His Spirit, through godly wisdom and counsel, and then pray in accordance with what He reveals to us.

Pray with a Clear Conscience

Psalm 66:18
If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear.

1 John 3:21-22
21 Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God.
22 And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.

Pray with Faith—Believe that You Have received

Mark 11:24
Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.

Hebrews 11:1- 2
1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.
2 For by it the elders obtained a good testimony.

Faith enables us to settle a matter in our hearts, even before we see any change/evidence in the natural realm.

Romans 4:17-21
17 As it is written, "I have made you a father of many nations" in the presence of Him whom he believed—God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did;
18 who, contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, "So shall your descendants be."
19 And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a

hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb.
20 He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God,
21 and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.

Abraham, praying according to God's promise for his life is a great example.

Continue in Faith with Patience and Thanksgiving

Hebrews 6:12
That you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

Hebrews 10:35-36
35 Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward.
36 For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise.

Philippians 4:6-7
6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;
7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

We may not see things happen instantly in the natural realm, all the time. This is when we must continue with faith and patience, all the while being thankful and rejoicing in the outcome, even though we may not have seen the result yet.

Sometimes it could be demonic hindrances that delay the answers.

Daniel 10:12-13
12 Then he said to me, "Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words.
13 But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia.

Sometimes God is getting us, our circumstances, and people around us ready (prepared) to receive the answer for our prayer, and this preparation may take some time.

Be Fervent, Not Flippant in Your Asking

James 5:16-18
16 Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.
17 Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months.
18 And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.

1 Kings 18:1,41-46
1 And it came to pass after many days that the word of the Lord came to Elijah, in the third year, saying, "Go, present yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain on the earth."
41 Then Elijah said to Ahab, "Go up, eat and drink; for there is the sound of abundance of rain."
42 So Ahab went up to eat and drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; then he bowed down on the ground, and put his face between his knees,
43 and said to his servant, "Go up now, look toward the sea." So he went up and looked, and said, "There is nothing." And seven times he said, "Go again."
44 Then it came to pass the seventh time, that he said, "There is a cloud, as small as a man's hand, rising out of the sea!" So he said, "Go up, say to Ahab, 'Prepare your chariot, and go down before the rain stops you.'"
45 Now it happened in the meantime that the sky became black with clouds and wind, and there was a heavy rain. So Ahab rode away and went to Jezreel.
46 Then the hand of the Lord came upon Elijah; and he girded up his loins and ran ahead of Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel.

Even though it was God who said that He was going to send rain, and hence sent Elijah to announce the arrival of rain—Elijah still had to go to Mount Carmel—and pray earnestly, fervently, until he saw the signs of the coming rain. Similarly, although God reveals to us what His will is, and what He intends to accomplish, we must pray through with faith until we see the answer released on the earth.

Developing a Consistent Prayer Life

- Set aside regular times for prayer.
- Pray throughout the day—walk in communion with the Lord. "*Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks* ..." (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)
- Take "time out"—Develop your personal prayer life, by setting aside consistent times of being alone with God, one or more days set aside for seeking God.
- Meet with others to join in group or corporate prayer, e.g., cell groups, all night prayer.
- Pray with confidence—knowing God hears you when you pray.
- Exercise the prayer of asking and receiving—follow through to see if your answers have come. If not, reflect, learn, and keep developing yourself in this area.

KEY MEMORY VERSES

Jeremiah 29:12
Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you.

Philippians 4:6-7
6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;
7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

1 John 3:21-22
21 Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God.
22 And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.

APPLICATION

1. What is “PRAYER” to you? What is the insight you have gained on prayer from this lesson?

2. What are the three key foundations for prayer?

3. List the different kinds of prayer and explain how and when you would use those kinds of prayers.

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4. What are some of the things that hinder you from "praying without ceasing?" What changes can you make to always stay in communion with the Lord?

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(Additional Reading: APC book — *The Wonderful Benefits of Praying in Tongues.)*

6. Praise And Worship

(All of us engage in praise and worship. So, why do we sing? Is it because everybody else is singing and we join the crowd, or is there a better reason to be involved in praise and worship? This lesson is designed to teach us the basics of praise and worship as revealed in the Word of God. Topics dealt in this chapter include what praise is, what worship is, and the purpose of congregational worship.)

Understanding Praise And Worship

What Is Praise?

Psalm 100:1-5
1 Make a joyful shout to the Lord, all you lands!
2 Serve the Lord with gladness; come before His presence with singing.
3 Know that the Lord, He is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people and the sheep of His pasture.
4 Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name.
5 For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting, and His truth endures to all generations.

Psalm 150:1-6
1 Praise the Lord! Praise God in His sanctuary; praise Him in His mighty firmament!
2 Praise Him for His mighty acts; praise Him according to His excellent greatness!
3 Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet; praise Him with the lute and harp!
4 Praise Him with the timbrel and dance; praise Him with stringed instruments and flutes!
5 Praise Him with loud cymbals; praise Him with clashing cymbals!
6 Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord!

"Praise" in the dictionary = "to commend; to applaud; to express approval or admiration of; to extol in words or in song; to magnify; to glorify."

Praise is the verbal expression of adoration, thanksgiving, rejoicing, and celebration of who God is, for what God has done, and for what He will do. It engages our total person—spirit, soul, and body toward God. Praise is exuberant in nature.

Giving God praise is based on who God is and what He has done, not our feelings. Often, we must be willing and determined to praise God, even when we do not feel like it.

Habakkuk 3:17-18
17 Though the fig tree may not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines; though the labor of the olive may fail, and the fields yield no food; though the flock may be cut off from the fold, and there be no herd in the stalls—
18 yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation.

Why Should We Praise?

- God is worthy of our praise.

Psalm 48:1
Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in His holy mountain.

Revelation 4:11
You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created.

- We were created to praise Him.

Jeremiah 13:11
For as the sash clings to the waist of a man, so I have caused the whole house of Israel and the whole house of Judah to cling to Me,' says the Lord, 'that they may become My people, for renown, for praise, and for glory; but they would not hear.'

1 Peter 2:9
But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.

You and I were designed to praise God, to give Him thanks and celebrate all that He has done.

Isaiah 43:21
This people I have formed for Myself; they shall declare My praise.

- We are commanded in His Word to do so.

Psalm 81:1-4
1 Sing aloud to God our strength; make a joyful shout to the God of Jacob.
2 Raise a song and strike the timbrel, the pleasant harp with the lute.
3 Blow the trumpet at the time of the New Moon, at the full moon, on our solemn feast day.
4 For this is a statute for Israel, a law of the God of Jacob.

Psalm 149: 1-9
1 Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song, and His praise in the assembly of saints.
2 Let Israel rejoice in their Maker; let the children of Zion be joyful in their King.
3 Let them praise His name with the dance; let them sing praises to Him with the timbrel and harp.
4 For the Lord takes pleasure in His people; He will beautify the humble with salvation.
5 Let the saints be joyful in glory; let them sing aloud on their beds.

6 Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a two-edged sword in their hand,
7 to execute vengeance on the nations, and punishments on the peoples;
8 to bind their kings with chains, and their nobles with fetters of iron;
9 to execute on them the written judgment—this honor have all His saints.

Psalm 150: 1-6
1 Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Praise God in His sanctuary; praise Him in His mighty firmament!
2 Praise Him for His mighty acts; Praise Him according to His excellent greatness!
3 Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet; Praise Him with the lute and harp!
4 Praise Him with the timbrel and dance; Praise Him with stringed instruments and flutes!
5 Praise Him with loud cymbals; Praise Him with clashing cymbals!
6 Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord!

- God is enthroned in our praises.

Psalm 22:3
But You are holy, enthroned in the praises of Israel.

- There is power in praise.

2 Chronicles 20:21-22
21 And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed those who should sing to the Lord, and who should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army and were saying: "Praise the Lord, for His mercy endures forever."
22 Now when they began to sing and to praise, the Lord set ambushes against the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; and they were defeated.

When we praise God, we are creating a place of Habitation for God. His Presence comes in. He comes to dwells among us.

Praise is Dynamite. As you celebrate God, something starts shaking here on earth. There is power in Praise.

Let us stop complaining about our circumstances. Praise is the way for us to cause our circumstances to change!

Acts 16:25-34
25 But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.
26 Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed.
27 And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and was about to kill himself.
28 But Paul called with a loud voice, saying, "Do yourself no harm, for we are all here."
29 Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas.
30 And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"
31 So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household."
32 Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house.
33 And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized.
34 Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them; and he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household.

- It is a good thing to praise.

Psalm 92:1
It is good to give thanks to the Lord, and to sing praises to Your name, O Most High.

Psalm 135:3
Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good; sing praises to His name, for it is pleasant.

When Should We Praise?

- At all times

Psalm 34:1
I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.

Psalm 70:4
Let all those who seek You rejoice and be glad in You; and let those who love Your salvation say continually, "Let God be magnified!"

Hebrews 13:15
Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.

Even when we face a problem, we must choose to tell God that in spite of it being tough, we will praise Him because He is Almighty and Powerful and thus, we will declare His greatness.

- All Day

Psalm 113:1-3
1 Praise the Lord! Praise, O servants of the Lord, Praise the name of the Lord!
2 Blessed be the name of the Lord from this time forth and forevermore!
3 From the rising of the sun to its going down, the Lord's name is to be praised.

- Forever

Psalm 52:9
I will praise You forever, because You have done it; and in the presence of Your saints I will wait on Your name, for it is good.

Praising God should be a way of life, just as normal as breathing, blinking, or any reflex action. We praise Him anywhere and everywhere by ourselves and along with others.

How Do We Express Praise to God?

A few ways mentioned in Scripture:

Singing

Psalm 47:6
Sing praises to God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises!

Psalm 100:4
Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name.

Ephesians 5:19
Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.

Revelation 5:9
And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by your blood, out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation.

Shouting (Making a joyful noise)

Psalm 47:1
Oh, clap your hands, all you peoples! Shout to God with the voice of triumph!

Psalm 66:1
Make a joyful shout to God, all the earth!

Clapping of Hands (Applauding God)

Psalm 47:1
Oh, clap your hands, all you peoples! Shout to God with the voice of triumph!

Lifting of Our Hands

Psalm 134:2
Lift up your hands in the sanctuary, and bless the Lord.

1 Timothy 2:8
I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.

- A sign of surrender.

- "Reaching out to our Father God."
- Symbolically receiving everything God is doing in our lives.

Playing of Musical Instruments

2 Chronicles 5:13-14
13 Indeed it came to pass, when the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the Lord, and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of music, and praised the Lord, saying: "For He is good, for His mercy endures forever, that the house, the house of the Lord, was filled with a cloud,
14 so that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; for the glory of the Lord filled the house of God.

Genesis 4:21
His brother's name was Jubal. He was the father of all those who play the harp and flute.

Ezekiel 28:13
You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering: the sardius, topaz, and diamond, beryl, onyx, and jasper, sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes was prepared for you on the day you were created.

1 Samuel 16:16-23
16 Let our master now command your servants, who are before you, to seek out a man who is a skillful player on the harp. And it shall be that he will play it with his hand when the distressing spirit from God is upon you, and you shall be well."
17 So Saul said to his servants, "Provide me now a man who can play well, and bring him to me."
18 Then one of the servants answered and said, "Look, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, who is skillful in playing, a mighty man of valor, a man of war, prudent in speech, and a handsome person; and the Lord is with him."
19 Therefore Saul sent messengers to Jesse, and said, "Send me your son David, who is with the sheep."
20 And Jesse took a donkey loaded with bread, a skin of wine, and a young goat, and sent them by his son David to Saul.
21 So David came to Saul and stood before him. And he loved him greatly, and he became his armorbearer.
22 Then Saul sent to Jesse, saying, "Please let David stand before me, for he has found favor in my sight."
23 And so it was, whenever the spirit from God was upon Saul, that David would take a harp and play it with his hand. Then Saul would become refreshed and well, and the distressing spirit would depart from him.

2 Kings 3:15-16
15 "But now bring me a musician." Then it happened, when the musician played, that the hand of the Lord came upon him.
16 And he said, "Thus says the Lord: 'Make this valley full of ditches.'

Revelation 5:8
Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

Revelation 14:2
And I heard a voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder. And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps.

Psalm 33:2-3
2 Praise the Lord with the harp; make melody to Him with an instrument of ten strings.
3 Sing to Him a new song; play skillfully with a shout of joy.

Psalm 150:5
Praise Him with loud cymbals; Praise Him with clashing cymbals.

- We need to be careful not to become too dependent on music/instruments. We should be able to praise God even without music.

Standing

- A sign of respect.

2 Chronicles 5:12
And the Levites who were the singers, all those of Asaph and Heman and Jeduthun, with their sons and their brethren, stood at the east end of the altar, clothed in white linen, having cymbals, stringed instruments and harps, and with them one hundred and twenty priests sounding with trumpets–

2 Chronicles 7:6
And the priests attended to their services; the Levites also with instruments of the music of the Lord, which King David had made to praise the Lord, saying, "For His mercy endures forever," whenever David offered praise by their ministry. The priests sounded trumpets opposite them, while all Israel stood.

2 Chronicles 29:26
The Levites stood with the instruments of David, and the priests with the trumpets.

Psalm 135:2
You who stand in the house of the Lord, in the courts of the house of our God,

Revelation 4:9-11
9 Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever,
10 the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying:
11 "You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created.

Singing in the Spirit (in Tongues)

Acts 2:11
Cretans and Arabs—we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God.

Acts 10:46
For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God.

Dancing

Zephaniah 3:17
The Lord your God in your midst, the Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing.

Psalm 149:2-3
2 Let Israel rejoice in their Maker; let the children of Zion be joyful in their King.
3 Let them praise His name with the dance; let them sing praises to Him with the timbrel and harp.

2 Samuel 6:14
Then David danced before the Lord with all his might; and David was wearing a linen ephod.

- Dancing is a celebration of God.
- If we will remove our physical restraints and be simple enough to dance before the Lord with all that is within us, we will find that our spiritual restraints will crumble as well, and God will have greater freedom to move among us.
- Caution: We are not judging others who do not feel comfortable with dancing; they should not feel threatened or excluded.
- Some churches have dance ministry/troupes which minister during worship.
- Different people, across different cultures have different ways of expressing their praise and worship to God.

What Happens When We Praise?

God Inhabits Our Praise

The very presence of God invades our circumstances and situations. If we want to attract God on purpose, we must start praising Him for He inhabits our praises.

Psalm 22:3
But You are holy, enthroned in the praises of Israel.

Praise Causes Divine Deliverance

As we begin to praise God during troubled situations, God brings forth deliverance for

His people.

2 Chronicles 20:22
Now when they began to sing and to praise, the Lord set ambushes against the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; and they were defeated.

Praise Stops the Enemy

Psalm 8:2
Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants you have ordained strength, because of Your enemies, that You may silence the enemy and the avenger.

Praise Is a Weapon of Warfare

As we praise God, we are binding up the enemy and executing the written judgment against the enemy. Praise is powerful, because that is when things begin to happen in the realm of the spirit.

Praise Executes God's Written Judgment on the Enemy

Psalm 149:5-9
5 Let the saints be joyful in glory; let them sing aloud on their beds.
6 Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a two-edged sword in their hand,
7 To execute vengeance on the nations, and punishments on the peoples;
8 To bind their kings with chains, and their nobles with fetters of iron;
9 To execute on them the written judgment—this honor have all His saints. Praise the Lord!

Praise Is an Expression of our Faith in God

Romans 4:21
And being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.

While "praise" is exuberant and a celebration, and is at the outer court, "worship" is intimate and very reverential because in "worship" we are at God's throne, bowing down. We are called to "worship" God in as much as we are called to "praise" God. In our Christian lives, intimacy with God is what births a fruitful life.

Worship

Psalm 95:6-7
6 Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.
7 For He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand…

Revelation 4:10-11
10 The twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives

forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying:
11 "You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created."

Worship (dictionary definition): intense love or admiration, a service showing reverence; to express reverence, to have a sense of awe, to bow low to.

Worship is the expression of reverential awe, of fearful adoration, of God's overwhelming greatness, and so on. In worship, we are usually full of reverence, and we may kneel, bow, and so on.

Real worship defies definition. It is the communion with God experienced by His loved ones. True worship is bowing our hearts and lives before the Lord and acknowledging His supreme Lordship, even in negative circumstances or complete emotional turmoil.

John 4:23-24
23 But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.
24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

In spirit—from our heart, our inner-most being, in truth—in sincerity.

What Happens When We worship?

- Worship births intimacy—it is in this place of intimacy that I am renewed, refreshed, and fruitfulness is birthed.
- Worship brings transformation—we become "like unto" what we worship.

Congregational Worship

While we must learn to truly "praise" and "worship" God on our own, by ourselves, the Word of God emphasizes the importance of God's people coming together as a congregation to praise and worship. It is an integral part of our walk with God, our lifestyle.

For, when we worship God as a congregation, there is a vertical dimension.

The Vertical Aspect

We Are to Minister to God

- To bless and glorify God, which is our primary purpose in worship; not to get something for ourselves. The question is not whether the worship service blessed me but whether it blessed God. We must minister to the Lord not with the ulterior

motive of receiving a blessing but rather with the motive of blessing Him, whether He blesses us or not.

We Worship to Experience the Presence of God

- The main difference between a church service and a meeting of a social organization is the presence of God.

Psalm 22:3
But You are holy, enthroned in the praises of Israel.

To Provide the Atmosphere for the Expression of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit

- God waits till we are ready to receive His Word (the prophetic word).

The Horizontal Aspect

To Enhance the Sense of Unity Within a Body

Though we are all from different cultures, backgrounds, tastes, and languages, when we worship God together there is a sense of unity amongst us.

Psalm 133: 1-3
1 Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!
2 It is like the precious oil upon the head, running down on the beard, the beard of Aaron, running down on the edge of his garments.
3 It is like the dew of Hermon, descending upon the mountains of Zion; for there the Lord commanded the blessing—life forevermore.

Psalm 86:11
Teach me Your way, O Lord; I will walk in Your truth; unite my heart to fear Your name.

- All believers have this one thing in common: they love the Lord Jesus Christ and can express their mutual faith together in song.
- Can cause the increase of brotherly love between believers.

To Minister to One Another

To Teach and Reinforce Spiritual Truth.

Ephesians 5:19
Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,

Colossians 3:16
Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

- Hymns and songs are mostly Scripture put in music.

To Provide Believers the Opportunity to Profess Their Faith Before Others and to Declare the Glories of God Before Unbelievers

Psalm 108:3
I will praise You, O Lord, among the peoples, and I will sing praises to You among the nations.

Hosea 6:11
Also, O Judah, a harvest is appointed for you, when I return the captives of My people.

To Provide the Atmosphere for the Preaching of the Word

Hosea 10:11
Ephraim is a trained heifer That loves to thresh grain; But I harnessed her fair neck, I will make Ephraim pull a plow. Judah shall plow; Jacob shall break his clods."

Psalm 65:9-10
9 You visit the earth and water it, You greatly enrich it; The river of God is full of water; You provide their grain, for so You have prepared it.
10 You water its ridges abundantly, You settle its furrows; You make it soft with showers, You bless its growth.

The essence of worship is our humility.

The Inward Aspect

To Release God's People in an Uninhibited Expression of their Heart

To Provide a Verbal Expression of the Feelings of our Hearts

To Inspire a Greater Commitment to a Life of Worship

Hindering Attitudes In Praise And Worship

Pride

Pride is the greatest hindrance in worship. Sometimes we are more concerned about the opinions of others than we are about the Lord's opinion. Never do anything because others are looking at you, and never refrain from anything because others are looking at you.

Irreverence

Irreverence is when we do not revere God's nature but expect His blessings to be showered on us, without any sacrifice, investment of prayer, or humble repentance on our part.

"Spectatorism"

Sometimes congregations tend to "watch" the worship team than to be "participators" in worship themselves. We are all commanded to worship.

Romans 12:1
I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

1 Corinthians 3:16
Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

1 Peter 2:5-6
5 You also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.
6 Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, "Behold, I lay in Zion a chief cornerstone, elect, precious, and he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame."

Revelation 1:6
And has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

"Sentimentalism"

Sentimentalism is when the music and emotion mean more to the worshipper than the message of the song. Here, we become more connected to the music but not necessarily with God and hence the purpose of "worshipping" is lost.

Paying "Mere Lip Service"

Merely singing the song but not worshipping from the heart is paying "lip service" to God. God would prefer that we keep our mouths shut rather than singing without meaning.

Amos 5:21-23
21 "I hate, I despise your feast days, and I do not savor your sacred assemblies.
22 Though you offer Me burnt offerings and your grain offerings, I will not accept them, nor will I regard your fattened peace offerings.
23 Take away from Me the noise of your songs, for I will not hear the melody of your stringed instruments.

Let us give God all the praise and worship He is worthy of.

Let us do it with all our hearts—in private and when we come together as a congregation.

Make "Praise" and "Worship" a lifestyle—a way of life.

We Have Never Done it this Way Before

Sometimes, there is the fear of change. Our God is a creative God and can work in so many ways.

KEY MEMORY VERSES

Psalm 100:4
Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name.

Ephesians 5:19
Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.

John 4:23-24
23 But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.
24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

APPLICATION

1. How do you like to express your praise to God? Would you like to add more ways of praising Him, after understanding this lesson?

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2. What are the effects of praise unto God?

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3. Examine your attitude toward praise and worship. List down hindrances that prevent you from praising and worshipping God in spirit and in truth.

7. GOD'S WORD

(God's Word is the foundation of our faith. It is our standard and final authority. This lesson is designed to teach us the inherent power in His Word and motivate us to make His Word continually reside in our hearts and mouths. We also learn the three steps in meditating in God's Word which is something all of us believers must practice, to have the Word of God produce in our lives.)

God's Word Is The Foundation Of Our Faith

The Word of God is extremely important to us believers. It is the foundation for our faith—the basis of what we believe in, what we live for, and what we practice in our Christian lives. So, we need to lay a hold of the Word of God. The 66 books of the Bible known as "the Canon of Scripture" is the inspired Word of God. So, when we look at the Bible, we do not look at it as just another religious book but as the inspired Word from God.

All Scripture is "God-Breathed"

2 Timothy 3:15-16
15 And that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.
16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.

This means that the Word of God is God-inspired and God-breathed, when we read the Bible, every story has a divine intent behind it. Everything recorded in Scripture is divinely purposed—there is a reason for it. Even people's failures have been recorded so that we can learn from them.

2 Peter 1:20-21
20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation,
21 for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

All of Scripture was given to us by holy men of God who were moved or inspired by the Holy Spirit. So, when we read the Bible, we approach it as the inspired Word of God, seeking to learn, and receive from it. For example, the book of Numbers is all about how many people were there in each tribe, which side of the tent these tribes had to be positioned on, and so on. This teaches us that God is a God of order, of detail, and

that He had everything organized for the people to get to the Promised Land. And so, He wants us to walk in proper order, as we journey with Him.

The Scriptures—Our Window into God

People may invite us to peep in through other windows, but they may not be pointing us toward God.

Psalm 119:18
Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from your law.

When we want to discover who God is, we look at Him through the window of His Word.

Reading the Bible is like sailing on the ocean. For many it is a boring thing to do, but if we want to see the amazing beauty that lies beneath, which can't be seen from the surface of the ocean, we have to dive deep into the ocean.

Similarly, dive into the Word, pray, and ask God to open your eyes to go "deep sea diving" to see all the treasures that are hidden in the Word. The Word reveals more and more of God to us. It is true that God is bigger than His Word, so the Word does not describe God completely. It is also true that God is infinite, but His Word is finite in the sense that it has 66 books in it. Heaven holds so many surprises that are not revealed in the Bible, and we will discover so much more of God there but for now, for our journey here on earth, this Word of God called the Bible is enough. It is the window through which we look to discover our God.

The Scriptures provide insight into the living God, revealing His nature, His character, His attributes, and His heart. We find insight into who God is, what He does, His feelings, and His desires. Any relationship is based on knowledge. Therefore, to have a deep and close relationship with the living God, one can know Him intimately as revealed in the Scriptures.

The Scriptures—Our Standard

Psalm 119:133
Direct my steps by your Word, and let no iniquity have dominion over me.

There are many standards that we can live by—earthly ones, some philosophy from a book, or a New Age Movement. But for us believers, the Word of God is our standard. Based on it, we live life, conduct ourselves, and journey through life.

The Scriptures—Our Authority

Psalm 119:101
I have restrained my feet from every evil way, that I may keep your Word.

The Word of God is our final authority—it is absolute. When I must make a choice, the Word of God instructs, and I submit to the authority of the Word. It is the final authority in my life as a believer.

The Scriptures—Produce Faith

The Word of God is also the basis for our faith—it is the source of our faith.

Romans 10:17
So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

When God quickens the Word to us, we believe the Word and it is the basis for our faith. We believe what we believe, because it is in the Word and we are so confident that this will come through for us because God has given us the promise in His Word. The Holy Spirit quickens that Word to us when we go through a certain situation and we know God is speaking to us from His Word, which births faith in us and thus we are confident of the outcome.

We Must Move from Revelation to Action

James 1:22,25
22 But be doers of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.
25 But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

It's not enough to just read the Word or hear the Word.
We must move from knowing the Word and receiving revelation of the Word to being doers of the Word.

God's Word: Its Purity And Power

God Exalts His Word Even Above His Name

Psalm 138:2
I will worship toward Your holy temple, and praise Your name for Your loving kindness and Your truth; for You have magnified Your Word above all Your name.

We know the names of God in the Bible and who He is and honor Him, but God exalts His Word more than His own Name and reputation.

His Word Is Pure

John 17:17
Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

Numbers 23:19
God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?

Psalm 12:6
The words of the LORD are pure words, like silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.

His Word Is Power

Hebrews 4:12
For the Word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

The Word of God is a carrier of the power of God—it has been designed to release the power of God into our lives. So, when we connect to the Word of God, we are plugging ourselves into God's source of power.

Hebrews 11:3
By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the Word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.

The entire universe came into existence by the Word that God spoke. We need to grasp this: If the Word created this universe and is alive and has not lost any of its power, it can also "create" in your world and mine, today. The world is also sustained just by the power of His Word. We need to understand that our lives are infinitely small compared to this vast universe and if there is enough power in His Word to uphold all things in its place, then there is sufficient power in the Word to uphold our little lives.

> If the universe itself is sustained and upheld by the "power" of His Word, then definitely our lives too can be regulated, sustained, and upheld by that same "power" of His Word.

When you feel everything is falling apart in your life and you cannot hold it together, know that there is power in the Word to keep your life together, to uphold you, to regulate, and make sure things are going the way it should be going. What is not in existence in your life can be brought into existence by the Word of God working in your life. Maybe healing does not exist right now in your body—there is pain, there is sickness but what you need is healing to be formed, fashioned, and brought into existence in your body. The Word of God has the power to bring that healing into

existence.

Hebrews 1:3
Who [Jesus] being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the Word of His power…

THE WORD OF GOD IS ALIVE AND FULL OF POWER

The Key is for us to make sure to plug into the Power of God's Word.

God's Word: The Miracle Seed

Take the seed of "God's Word," meditate on it and cause it to germinate in your heart to experience the power of the Word in your life. For, God's Word is the "miracle seed" and it has been designed to produce fruit in our lives.

The seed must be protected and nurtured if it is to produce fruit.

The Parable of the Sower

Mark 4:1–20
1 And again He began to teach by the sea. And a great multitude was gathered to Him, so that He got into a boat and sat in it on the sea; and the whole multitude was on the land facing the sea.
2 Then He taught them many things by parables, and said to them in His teaching:
3 "Listen! Behold, a sower went out to sow.
4 And it happened, as he sowed, that some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds of the air came and devoured it.
5 Some fell on stony ground, where it did not have much earth; and immediately it sprang up because it had no depth of earth.
6 But when the sun was up it was scorched, and because it had no root it withered away.
7 And some seed fell among thorns; and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no crop.
8 But other seed fell on good ground and yielded a crop that sprang up, increased and produced: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred."
9 And He said to them, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"
10 But when He was alone, those around Him with the twelve asked Him about the parable.
11 And He said to them, "To you it has been given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God; but to those who are outside, all things come in parables,
12 so that 'Seeing they may see and not perceive, and hearing they may hear and not understand; lest they should turn, and their sins be forgiven them.'"
13 And He said to them, "Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables?
14 The sower sows the word.
15 And these are the ones by the wayside where the word is sown. When they hear, Satan comes immediately and takes away the word that was sown in their hearts.
16 These likewise are the ones sown on stony ground who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with gladness;
17 and they have no root in themselves, and so endure only for a time. Afterward, when tribulation or persecution arises for the word's sake, immediately they stumble.
18 Now these are the ones sown among thorns; they are the ones who hear the word,
19 and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.

20 But these are the ones sown on good ground, those who hear the word, accept it, and bear fruit: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred."

God's Word is like seed (Mark 4:14).

So, let us guard our hearts for that is where the seed of God is taking root, germinating, and getting ready to release its power to affect your world.

The Word of God often refers to itself as a seed. There are a total of 44 verses in the New Testament where the Greek word '*sperma*' was translated "seed." This is the same word from which we derive our English word "sperm."

Our heart is the ground where the seed of God's Word is to be sown (Mark 4:15). The seed must be protected and nurtured if it is to produce fruit.

We must understand the Word (i.e., get an understanding of the spiritual truth) to keep satan from stealing the Word.

Matthew 13:19
When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside.

Regardless of what hardship or persecution we face—from the world or the devil—we must hold fast to the Word and allow it to take root in our hearts, so that it can produce (Mark 4:16-17).

We must guard our hearts from the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches and the lust for other things. When we do so, we are providing a suitable "environment" for the Word to produce (Mark 4:19).

When we understand (Matthew 13:23), receive (Mark 4:20), and retain (Luke 8:15) the Word in our hearts, we will bring forth fruit in our lives.

The Bible is our bag of miracle seeds. Every seed will produce after its own kind (the healing seed will produce healing, seeds that promise blessing will produce blessing).

Take the seed you require and sow it into your heart. When you hear the Word, it is important you understand what it means and receive a revelation. Jesus warned us that when the seed takes root, persecution and afflictions will come. If we let those things clog our hearts by being frustrated and getting anxious and thus give up on the Word, then we are like the ground where the Word is taking root but because of all the stones and rocks, we fail to produce.

So, when we face hardships, we must hold on to the Word, not give up, and not let the

cares of this world choke the Word in our lives. Our responsibilities, desires, pursuits of riches may consume us and become more important than the Word, thus choking the Word.

Matthew 13:23
But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."

Luke 8:15
But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.

The Seed Is the Word of God

Luke 8:11
Now the parable is this: The seed is the Word of God.

God's Word has Been Designed to Produce

Isaiah 55:10-11
10 For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
11 so shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

1 Thessalonians 2:13
For this reason we also thank God without ceasing because when you received the Word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the Word of men, but as it is in truth, the Word of God which also effectively works in you who believe.

Meditating in God's Word

Joshua 1:8
This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

Meditation is essentially an activity of the human spirit that reaches the soul (the seat of thought, intellect, imagination, feeling, and will) and affects the physical body.

For the purposes of instruction, we would like to summarize the process of meditation thus:

Contemplation—Thinking Within Yourself

Psalm 143:5
I remember the days of old; I meditate on all Your works; I muse on the work of Your hands.

Visualization—Seeing With Your Mind's Eye

Proverbs 4:20-22
20 My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings.
21 Do not let them depart from your eyes; Keep them in the midst of your heart;
22 for they are life to those who find them, and health to all their flesh.

Isaiah 54:13
All your children shall be taught by the Lord, and great shall be the peace of your children.

Visualize this Word—see your child living the kind of life that glorifies God and paint those pictures in your mind. You have a right to do it because the Word says all your children will be taught by the Lord. Visions and dreams are the language of the Holy Spirit. See yourself becoming, being, and doing what the Word says.

There is enough power in the Word of God to transform anything or any circumstance in your life as His Word.

Confession—Saying What God Says

Deuteronomy 30:11–14
11 For this commandment which I command you today is not too mysterious for you, nor is it far off.
12 It is not in heaven, that you should say, 'Who will ascend into heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?'
13 Nor is it beyond the sea, that you should say, 'Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?'
14 But the word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it.

Developing the Discipline of Reading and Meditating in God's Word

Give God's Word its rightful place in your life.

Psalm 1:1–3
1 Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful;
2 But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night.
3 He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper.

- Set aside time regularly (daily is preferable) to read God's Word.
- Meditate on what you read.
- Choose a set of Scriptures on a particular theme that you feel you need to strengthen yourself in (e.g., Healing, Provision, Prayer) and meditate on those Scriptures.
- Listen as often as you can to God's Word being preached (e.g., when travelling) using MP3 downloads.

KEY MEMORY VERSES

Joshua 1:8
This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

Isaiah 55:10-11
10 For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
11 So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

Hebrews 4:12
For the Word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerned of the thought and intents of the heart.

(Please download the APC book "God's Word—The Miracle seed" from apcwo.org/books and study it.)

APPLICATION

1. God's Word is the standard and final authority—how would I apply this in everyday life?

2. God's Word is the miracle seed—how does this change my approach to reading the Word?

3. How can I develop the practice of meditating in God's Word?

4. Are there areas where I feel I question the purity and power of God's Word? In what areas and why?

5. How can I come to a place where I embrace God's Word as truth, and dislocate anything that hinders that in my life?

8. THE LOCAL CHURCH

(This lesson is designed to teach us the purpose of the local church and the believer's relationship and function in the local church.)

The Local Church—Its Natural And Spiritual Dimensions

Matthew 16:15-19
15 He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"
16 Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."
17 Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.
18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.
19 And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

The church is God's idea. Denominations are man-made.

The meaning of the word "Church" is as follows:

Church (Greek) '*ekklesia*' *ek* = out of, *klesis* = a calling, to call

In its literal sense, the word 'Church' simply refers to a gathering together of those who have been called out, for a definite purpose.

Important Truths About The Church—The Body Of Christ

- The Church is Christ's Body

Colossians 1:18,24
18 And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.
24 I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church,

Ephesians 1:22-23
22 And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church,
23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

- The Church is eternal, because Christ, the Head is eternal.
- The Church is the instrument to execute Christ's purposes.

The Body executes what the Head commands—both here in this present age and in the millennium.

Daniel 7:18
But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom, and possess the kingdom forever, even forever and ever.

- Every believer is a member of Christ's Body—the eternal Church.

1 Corinthians 12:27
Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.

Important Truths Concerning The Local Church

1 Timothy 3:14-15
14 These things I write to you, though I hope to come to you shortly;
15 but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

- The local church is called "the household of God."
- The local church in a certain place is the family of God in that place.
- Family is about relationships.
- There is mutual love, care, concern, and support.
- People are in different stages of growth and maturity.
- The local church is the physical expression of the spiritual Body of Christ in a certain geographical area.
- The local church in a certain area is Christ's instrument in that area to execute Christ's purposes.

Why Should You Be a Committed Part of a Local Church?

It is within a local church that you and I live out in daily life our membership in Christ's spiritual Body—the Church.

The local church is also God's idea!

Romans 12:4-8
4 For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function,
5 so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.
6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith;
7 or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching;
8 he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

- You can serve others and receive through others.
- There is strength, support, and encouragement.
- We can do a whole lot more together.
- There are things that happen in a "cluster" which an individual grape cannot produce.

Isaiah 65:8
Thus says the Lord: "As the new wine is found in the cluster, and one says, 'Do not destroy it, for a blessing is in it, 'so will I do for My servants' sake, that I may not destroy them all.

You need to be committed to one local church when you are in a particular place. Body parts don't float around but stay together.

The Mission Of The Local Church

The mission of the local church can be categorized into five main areas:

Evangelism and Missions

Reaching people with the Gospel and fulfilling the Great Commission.

Discipleship

A disciple is one who has been trained to be Christlike in character, conduct, and service.

Prayer and Worship

- We change the spiritual atmosphere over our city through prayer and worship.
- Prayer and worship create an atmosphere for spiritual ministry as we gather.
- God speaks during a worshipping and praying congregation.

Fellowship

Living as the family (household) of God.

Ministry

Equipping of the saints for ministry

- Every member is fully equipped, activated, and released to fulfill his/her calling.
- Believers discover and exercise their gifts for the edifying of the Body.

- Impacting the world around us.
- Sending ministers out and reproducing itself.

A well-formed local church will have all these five dimensions in proper balance and emphasis.

Local Church

The Local Church—A Body

The church is a "body" analogous to the human body. The human body has various systems—a total of nine. Paying attention to all the systems is essential to health, strength, and productivity. We can draw an interesting parallel:

1 Corinthians 12:12-27
12 For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ.
13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.
14 For in fact the body is not one member but many.
15 If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body," Is it therefore not of the body?
16 And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body?
17 If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling?
18 But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased.
19 And if they were all one member, where would the body be?
20 But now indeed there are many members, yet one body.
21 And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you."
22 No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary.
23 And those members of the body which we think to be less honorable, on these we bestow greater honor; and our unpresentable parts have greater modesty,
24 but our presentable parts have no need. But God composed the body, having given greater honor to that part which lacks it,
25 that there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another.
26 And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.
27 Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.

Ephesians 4:16
From whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

- **Circulatory System**: ensuring every individual receives care and nurture.

- **Skeletal System**: ensuring structure, shape, and support by having proper leadership, organization, and administration in place.
- **Muscular System**: ensuring strength, movement, and mobility by ensuring that every believer becomes a minister.
- **Digestive System**: ensuring a strong, anointed, and timely ministry of the Word so that people receive, digest, and absorb solid spiritual nourishment.
- **Respiratory System**: ensuring a continuous, fresh, breath, inspiration, and work of the Spirit.
- **Nervous System**: ensuring keen sensitivity and perception to what is happening in the local body and providing a timely response.
- **Endocrine System**: ensuring spiritual activities as prayer, faith, love, servanthood, and maintaining core values and culture of the church, such as creativity, being contemporary, empowering people, spiritual mentoring, and so on. Although present in small measures, these act as the "chemical control system" stimulating growth, health, and balance.
- **Excretory System**: ensuring that the church effectively eliminates unhealthy things—individually and corporately.
- **Reproductive System**: ensuring that individuals and the local church are reproducing—winning souls, discipling, and planting churches.

The Local Church—A Family

The House of God—A Spiritual House

Galatians 6:10
Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

Ephesians 2:19-22
19 Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,
20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone,
21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord,
22 in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

1 Timothy 3:15
But if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

"House" in Greek *'oikos'* = a dwelling, by implication a family.

Applies to both the corporate Body of Christ and to the local church.

Jesus—the Master of the House

Matthew 10:25
It is enough for a disciple that he be like his teacher, and a servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more will they call those of his household!

"Master of the house" in Greek *'oikodespotes'* = the head of a family—goodman (of the house), householder.

We are to live as the family of God—caring, supporting, and encouraging one another.

The Local Church—An Army

Matthew 16:15-19
15 He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"
16 Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."
17 Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.
18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.
19 And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

2 Timothy 2:3-4
3 You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.
4 No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.

There is rank, order, and discipline in the army.

God has set leaders amongst us—to lead us forward.

Military Mindset

We need to be on "high alert" since we are in battle. There is no de-militarized zone as long as we are here in this life.

Military Lifestyle

We live as soldiers—while we discharge our earthly duties, we must keep ourselves from being entangled with the affairs of this life.

Military Discipline

We keep our entire being—spirit, soul, and body under discipline.

KEY MEMORY VERSES

Romans 12:4-8
4 For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function,
5 so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.
6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith;
7 or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching;
8 he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

Understand the importance of every "member" in the Body.
YOU ARE IMPORTANT—whatever your place and function may be.

Understand that in a "Family" there will be individuals in different stages of growth and development (fathers, mothers, young adults, teens, children).

So, we must be understanding of one another in the local church, as we all keep growing and maturing in the Lord.

Ephesians 1:22-23
22 And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church,
23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

Galatians 6:10
Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

APPLICATION

1. Briefly outline the mission of the local church.

2. Am I a committed member in a local church, if not what is keeping me from being a functioning member of a local body?

3. What is my place and function in the local church, at present? How can I be a meaningful "member" of the local church body—fulfilling Christ's purpose for me?

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(If you are not a member of a local church, we encourage you to please consider becoming a committed member. Signing the membership form is an expression of your commitment. If you would like to become a member of All Peoples Church, please download the membership information booklet apcwo.org/churchforms, read, pray about it, and see if this is where God wants you planted.)

9. THE SACRAMENTS OF THE CHURCH

(This course is designed to teach us about the two sacraments or ordinances of the Church. By sacraments or ordinances of the Church, we refer to the practices ordained by Christ to be permanently observed by the Church. Water Baptism and the Lord's Supper are the two sacraments ordained by Jesus Christ our Lord, for the Church. These ordinances as practiced by the believer are also means by which the power of Christ's finished work on the Cross becomes real and effective in the believer's life. Learn how to receive the power of God into your life as you participate in the sacraments of the Church.)

The Sacraments Of The Church

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These ordinances as practiced by the believer are also means by which the power of Christ's finished work on the Cross becomes real and effective in the believer's life. We desire to learn how to receive the power of God into our lives as we participate in the sacraments of the Church.

Water Baptism

Introduced by John the Baptist when announcing the Kingdom of heaven on earth, as a sign of repentance.

Matthew 3:1-8
1 In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea,
2 and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"
3 For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying: "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; Make His paths straight.'"
4 Now John himself was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey.
5 Then Jerusalem, all Judea, and all the region around the Jordan went out to him
6 and were baptized by him in the Jordan, confessing their sins.
7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?
8 Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance,

Jesus was baptized—although He had nothing to repent from—to demonstrate obedience to fulfill all righteousness.

Matthew 3:13-16
13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him.
14 And John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?"
15 But Jesus answered and said to him, "Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed Him.
16 When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him.

Baptism is a command in the New Testament.

Matthew 28:19-20
19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

Baptism is an act of obedience. You can expect increased measure of blessing.

Baptism expresses your decision to follow Jesus Christ alone.

Acts 2:38-39
38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

Baptism is a symbol of the inner experience of death, burial, and resurrection with Jesus.

Romans 6:4
Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

Baptism is an expression of your desire to maintain a clear conscience before God.

1 Peter 3:21
There is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

The only requirement to be baptized is "repent and believe" in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Acts 8:36-37
36 Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, "See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?"

37 Then Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."

Baptism is by immersion in water only.

You don't have to become very holy to be baptized. Water baptism will not make you a spiritual giant. You still must grow spiritually through the Word and prayer.

Because baptism is a symbolic proclamation of the Cross, you can expect the power of the Cross to affect your life in breaking bondages, addictions, bringing deliverance during baptism.

In the book of Acts, we see each time people were baptized, they were baptized "in the name of Jesus." We understand that this means "by the authority given to us by Jesus."

The formula we use: "In Jesus' Name (*meaning, by Christ's authority*), I baptize you in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit."

(If you have not been baptized in water according to the command in Scripture, we encourage you to be baptized. Please look for the next scheduled Water Baptism Service and please register.)

The Lord's Table

Matthew 26:18-30
18 And He said, "Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, 'The Teacher says, "My time is at hand; I will keep the Passover at your house with My disciples."'"
19 So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them; and they prepared the Passover.
20 When evening had come, He sat down with the twelve.
21 Now as they were eating, He said, "Assuredly, I say to you, one of you will betray Me."
22 And they were exceedingly sorrowful, and each of them began to say to Him, "Lord, is it I?"
23 He answered and said, "He who dipped his hand with Me in the dish will betray Me.
24 The Son of Man indeed goes just as it is written of Him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had not been born."
25 Then Judas, who was betraying Him, answered and said, "Rabbi, is it I?" He said to him, "You have said it."
26 And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body."
27 Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you.
28 For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.
29 But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom."
30 And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

1 Corinthians 11:20-34
20 Therefore when you come together in one place, it is not to eat the Lord's Supper.

21 For in eating, each one takes his own supper ahead of others; and one is hungry and another is drunk.
22 What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and shame those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you in this? I do not praise you.
23 For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread;
24 and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me."
25 In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."
26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.
27 Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.
28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup.
29 For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.
30 For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep.
31 For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged.
32 But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.
33 Therefore, my brethren, when you come together to eat, wait for one another.
34 But if anyone is hungry, let him eat at home, lest you come together for judgment. And the rest I will set in order when I come.

1 Corinthians 10:16-21
16 The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?
17 For we, though many, are one bread and one body; for we all partake of that one bread.
18 Observe Israel after the flesh: Are not those who eat of the sacrifices partakers of the altar?
19 What am I saying then? That an idol is anything, or what is offered to idols is anything?
20 Rather, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to demons and not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons.
21 You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the Lord's table and of the table of demons.

- The Lord's Table was instituted by the Lord Jesus Himself.

- The Lord's Table is open to all who are believers of the Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 10:16
The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?

- An expression of our union with oneanother.

1 Corinthians 10:17
For we, though many, are one bread and one body; for we all partake of that one bread.

Celebrating the Lord's Table

Is an expression of:

Our personal faith in the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord, and

the completed work of Christ on the Cross. Every proclamation is powerful in the spiritual
realm and hence we can expect to receive the power of the Cross invading our lives as we partake in the Lord's Table.

Our faith in His return.

Our union with Jesus (we are declaring our "communion" with the body and blood of Jesus—with Christ Himself).

We must prepare our hearts by:

- Examining our lives and renouncing known sin.
- Taking the elements, understanding, and believing in what they represent—the death and shed blood of Christ on the Cross.

In celebrating the Lord's Table, we can expect the full blessings of the Cross—salvation, healing, deliverance, and wholeness, to be released into our lives.

Partaking in a Worthy Manner

One of the issues Paul is addressing is the behavior of people at the Corinthian church. There were two ways in which they were violating the Lord's Table:

They were partaking of the Lord's Table (as an act of worship) and then also partaking of foods offered to idols as an act of worship toward the idol, which Paul calls idolatry (1

Corinthians 10:14-33). The real problem was not with the food—but with the reverence that was being given to the idol in eating something sacrificed to the idol, which also became a stumbling block to other new believers.

They had turned the Lord's Table into some sort of feast (1 Corinthians 11:20-22) and hence the admonition to discern and partake in a worthy manner. If we do so in a worthy manner—we receive the full blessings of the Cross in our lives—which included healing. If we do it without really understanding or paying attention to the significance of what we are doing, we miss receiving the blessings of the Cross—and one of the consequences is that we miss out on the provision of healing for our bodies, and hence "... *That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died* ..."

Only Requirement

There is no explicit instruction in Scripture that you must be water baptized before taking part in the Lord's Table. Therefore, at All Peoples Church, we keep participation in the Lord's Table open to all born-again believers. There is no explicit age restriction in Scripture on when a person should be baptized in water or when a person can start participating in the Lord's Table. The only requirement is that a person has been born again (has become a believer) through personal faith in Jesus Christ. Hence, we take this approach in welcoming people to be baptized or partake in the Lord's Table.

Some Common Questions

If I was "baptized" before—either "sprinkled" or went through "immersion"—without having been born again, is it necessary/ alright for me to be baptized "again?"

Now that you are a believer, yes, it is alright to be baptized again and do it as an expression of your faith in Jesus Christ. We have such an instance in Acts 19:1-6, when Paul encountered some disciples who had been baptized by John the Baptist. He updated them about Jesus Christ, and after they believed, they were baptized in water in the name of Jesus Christ.

Do I need to reach some spiritual level or spiritual maturity before being water-baptized?

No. The only requirement we see is that one is born again, becomes a believer in Jesus Christ. In the book of Acts, most of them were baptized in water as soon as they believed in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Can one believer baptize another believer in water or should water baptism be conducted only by a Pastor or some spiritual leader?

In the book of Acts, we see Philip who was a deacon at the church in Jerusalem baptizing

new believers. We also see Ananias who was a believer sent to baptize Saul (who later became Paul). So, yes, any believer can baptize another believer in water.

What if I took part in the Lord's Table in an "unworthy manner" not really understanding or having faith in what I was doing—will I be struck down with some deadly disease?

No. Just recognize that you took this lightly. Tell the Lord you are sorry, (i.e., repent of doing this in an unworthy manner) and going forward, do this the right way.

Should I take part in the Lord's Table when the person leading the celebration himself does not believe in what he is doing?

Now that I have understood the meaning and significance of water baptism, I must obey the Lord's command and be water-baptized. Whenever I partake of the Lord's Table, I must do it with meaning and understanding. I must expect to receive by faith.

There is no value in taking part in the Lord's Table if the person leading the celebration does not believe in what is being done.

Can I as a believer take part in the Lord's Table at home?

Sure. If you are doing it as unto the Lord, in remembrance of Him, one or more believers can celebrate the Lord's Table at home or anywhere else.

KEY MEMORY VERSES

Acts 2:38-39
38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

1 Corinthians 10:16
The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?

1 Corinthians 10:17
For we, though many, are one bread and one body; for we all partake of that one bread.

APPLICATION

1. What is it that makes the practice of Water Baptism and the Lord's Table real and meaningful?

10. In Christ

(This lesson is designed to help us understand what God has done for us in Christ Jesus, defines our identity in Christ, and teaches us how to live out our inheritance in Him.)

Introduction

We need to understand what God has done for us in Christ Jesus, realize our true identity in Christ, know who we are in Him, and be equipped to live the In-Christ life.

This lesson is a summary of a detailed Bible study covered in the free APC book "Who We Are in Christ."

Understanding Our Union With Christ

We Are in Christ

John 15:1–5
1 "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.
2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.
3 You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.
4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.
5 "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

Here, the Lord used the illustration of a vine and its branches, to communicate His relationship with His people.

- We are "connected" to Him.
- What is in Him, is in us.
- We are the fruit-bearing part of the Vine—we manifest the Christ-life.

2 Corinthians 5:17
Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

Who you are in Christ is who you really are!

- We became something, which we were not earlier.
- What did not exist has now come into existence.

God didn't take the "old me" and put me in Christ. Instead, He made me a new creation and put me in Christ. I became a new creation—something, someone new—when I came into Christ Jesus.

We Have a New Identity

- We were once sinners, but now in Christ we are saints.
- We were once guilty, but now in Christ we are justified.
- We were once unrighteous, but now in Christ we are the righteousness of God.
- We are no longer what we used to be, spiritually.

This means that we need to change our self-image—the way we think and talk about ourselves. We need to think of ourselves and talk about ourselves the way God sees us in Christ—instead of the way we are used to seeing ourselves, or the way others view us.

How Can This Truth Change Your Life?

It will Change Your Self-Image

Who you are in Christ, is who you really are! Learn to place your self-image and your self-worth not on your achievements, not on what other people say about you, but on the simple fact of who you are in Christ.

It will Change the Way You Relate to God

The way you relate to God, your daily fellowship with God, your entry into the presence of God is not based on your works. It is based on who you are in Christ.

It will Change the Way you Face Challenges and Difficulties in Life

Christ is in you; you are in Him and you are going to win. God and you are the majority.

It will Change Your Lifestyle

It helps you overcome sin in your life.

Romans 6:14
For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

Sin will no longer have dominion over you. You do not have to be in bondage to sin.

It will Change the Way You Face Demons and Demonic Powers

You can face demons and demonic powers with strong confidence when you know who you are in Christ.

It will Change the Way You Relate to People

When you look at another person, although that person may not be very great in natural terms, if he is in Christ, then he is a brother. You are not relating to him based on his education or qualification. He is a brother in Christ. You must treat him like that. If that brother has a more dynamic ministry, God bless him, he is your brother in Christ. You are not in competition but in collaboration and are working together. You are one Body in Christ. You do not have to feel insecure. All of us are joined to the Lord.

In-Christ Truths

Washed, Sanctified, and Justified

1 Corinthians 6:9–11
9 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites,
10 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.
11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

Washed = made clean.

Sanctified = set apart for God and His purposes.

Justified = Acquitted, declared not guilty, completely forgiven, made innocent, made **just-as-if-I-never-sinned**.

Blessed with Every Blessing

Ephesians 1:3
Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.

Made Victorious

2 Corinthians 2:14
Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place.

Reign in Life

Romans 5:17
For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.

Identified with Christ—Crucified, Buried, Raised, Seated

Because we are in Christ, we have become identified with Him in His crucifixion, burial, resurrection, ascension, and position at the right hand of the Father. Our present union with Christ has entitled us to His past achievements. Our present oneness with Christ has made us so one with Him that we are recognized as having been in Him, in His past accomplishments.

Romans 6:1-7
1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?
2 Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?
3 Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?
4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.
5 For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection,
6 knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.
7 For he who has died has been freed from sin.

Ephesians 2:1-6
1 And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins,
2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,
3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.
4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,
5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),
6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

- Crucified with Christ—The body of sin (power/control of sin) was destroyed.
- Buried with Christ—Separated from the past life.
- Made alive from the dead with Christ—Given new life.
- Raised up into the heavens with Christ—Separated from the present age/world.
- Seated with Christ—Positioned to rule and reign.

(There is a whole lot more in Scripture on that subject of "Who We Are In Christ." We encourage you to download a copy of our free APC book "Who We Are In Christ" found at apcwo.org/books and study it in depth.)

We Must Live Out of Who We Are In Christ

Abide in Him

John 15:4-5
4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.
5 "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

When we abide in Him, and He in us, we will walk as Christ walked.

Acknowledge every good thing you have in Him.

Philemon 1:6
That the sharing of your faith may become effective by the acknowledgment of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.

- Acknowledge every good thing that is in you, in Christ.
- Know your rights and stand your ground.

KEY MEMORY VERSES

2 Corinthians 5:17
Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

John 15:4-5
4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.
5 "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

(*For further study, please refer to the free APC book "Who We Are in Christ*" available for download at apcwo.org/books.)

APPLICATION

1. What does God want me to do with what He has done for me, and given to me in Christ?

2. How do I live out my union with Christ?

3. How do I experience in daily life what God has done for me in Christ?

4. How does being "In Christ:"

- change my self-image.

- change the way I relate to God.

- change the way I face challenges and difficulties in life.

- change my lifestyle.

- change the way I face demons and demonic powers.

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- change the way I relate to people.

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11. THE HOLY SPIRIT

(This lesson is designed to teach us about the Person and work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer. We cover aspects of the Holy Spirit's work such as being filled with the Spirit, walking in the Spirit, being led by the Spirit, and baptism in the Holy Spirit.)

The Holy Spirit Is A Person

The analogy of "wind" is used.

The Hebrew and Greek words for "Spirit" literally mean wind.

Hebrew *'ruach'* = "breath, air, strength, wind, breeze."

Greek *'pneuma'* = "the wind, breath, to breathe, blow."

Wind—we experience different things:

- We breathe air (wind).
- We feel the wind.
- We can generate energy from the wind.
- We can use the wind to sail.
- We can pull into the wind to fly an airplane.

In a similar manner, we can just remain at the level where we "breathe" the wind of the Spirit or we can go further and learn to pull into the wind of the Spirit and fly into greater realms. There is a lot we can experience of the "wind" of the Spirit.

Though the words used in Scripture are translated "wind," we must always remember that the Holy Spirit is a Person, a real Spirit-Being. He is God, co-equal with the Father and the Son, and is to be equally honored and worshipped.

The Work Of The Holy Spirit In The Life Of A Believer

At the New Birth

Born Again by Water and the Spirit

John 3:1-8
1 There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews.
2 This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him."
3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."
4 Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?"
5 Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.
6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.
7 Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'
8 The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit."

Water represents natural birth. It could also signify new birth through the power of the Word since water is a symbol of the Word of God.

1 Peter 1:23
Having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever.

John 15:3
You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.

Ephesians 5:26
That He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,

Born of the Regenerative Work of the Spirit

Titus 3:4-5
4 But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared,
5 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,

The Spirit of Sonship has Been Sent into Our Hearts

Galatians 4:6-7
6 And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!"
7 Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

The Holy Spirit Gives Us the "Assurance" of Our Sonship/Salvation

Romans 8:14-16
14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.
15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."
16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

In Everyday Life

Crucifying the Flesh

(Study Romans Chapters 6-8 and Galatians 5.)

Galatians 6:8
For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.

Temples of the Spirit

1 Corinthians 3:16-17
16 Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?
17 If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20
19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?
20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

Changes Us into Christlikeness

2 Corinthians 3:18
But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

Walking in the Spirit / Being Filled with the Spirit

Let us study what it means to be filled by the Spirit.

Ephesians 5:18-21
18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,
19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,
20 giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

21 submitting to one another in the fear of God.

The word compares "being filled with the Spirit" to a drunken state. When you see a person under the influence of alcohol or in a drunken state it is obvious. How? They don't walk straight. They don't talk straight. And if you are close enough you can even smell the alcohol!!!

We should be so intoxicated by the Spirit, that people can tell that we are filled by the Spirit when they see us.

The characteristics that set apart a person filled by the Spirit or walking in the Spirit is in Ephesians 5:18-21, "*And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another in the fear of God*."

Galatians 5:16-24
16 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.
17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.
18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.
19 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness,
20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies,
21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.
22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.
24 And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

The Fruit of the Spirit (Christlike virtues)

Galatians 5:22-23
22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

Revelatory Work of the Spirit

This refers to the knowledge of the things prepared for us.

1 Corinthians 2:9-16
9 But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him."
10 But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.

11 For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.
12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.
13 These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.
14 But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.
15 But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one.
16 For "who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

Guides Us into All Truth

John 16:13
However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.

Being Led by the Spirit

Romans 8:14-16
14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.
15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."
16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

Conscience Bearing Witness with the Holy Spirit

Romans 9:1
I tell the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit.

Let us study how to test what I feel is the "leading of the Spirit?"

- The Spirit and the Word agree.

1 John 5:7
For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one.

- Is Jesus glorified?

John 16:13
However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.

- Is it righteous?
- Do other godly believers bear witness to this?

The Baptism In The Holy Spirit

The Baptism in the Holy Spirit is empowering to be a witness for Jesus.

Matthew 3:11
I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

After His resurrection, Jesus met with the disciples, breathed on them, and they were born again.

John 20:21-22
21 So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you."
22 And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

He then told them to wait for the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Luke 24:48-49
48 And you are witnesses of these things.
49 Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.

Acts 1:4-5,8
4 And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me;
5 for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."
8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

The baptism of the Holy Spirit is distinct from the "new birth" experience.

The outpouring of the Holy Spirit or the baptism in the Holy Spirit is for all believers.

Receiving the Gift of the Holy Spirit

Acts 2:1-4,14-18,38-39
1 When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.
2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.
3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them.
4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

14 But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words.
15 For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day.
16 But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:
17 'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, that I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams.
18 And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; and they shall prophesy.
38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

Acts 8:5-21
5 Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them.
6 And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did.
7 For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed.
8 And there was great joy in that city.
9 But there was a certain man called Simon, who previously practiced sorcery in the city and astonished the people of Samaria, claiming that he was someone great,
10 to whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, "This man is the great power of God."
11 And they heeded him because he had astonished them with his sorceries for a long time.
12 But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized.
13 Then Simon himself also believed; and when he was baptized he continued with Philip, and was amazed, seeing the miracles and signs which were done.
14 Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them,
15 who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit.
16 For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.
17 Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.
18 And when Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Spirit was given, he offered them money,
19 saying, "Give me this power also, that anyone on whom I lay hands may receive the Holy Spirit."
20 But Peter said to him, "Your money perish with you, because you thought that the gift of God could be purchased with money!
21 You have neither part nor portion in this matter, for your heart is not right in the sight of God.

Acts 9:17-18
17 And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit."
18 Immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he received his sight at once; and he arose and was baptized.

1 Corinthians 14:18
I thank my God I speak with tongues more than you all.

Acts 10:44-48
44 While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word.
45 And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also.
46 For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. Then Peter answered,
47 "Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?"
48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then they asked him to stay a few days.

Acts 19:1-7
1 And it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples
2 he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" So they said to him, "We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit."
3 And he said to them, "Into what then were you baptized?" So they said, "Into John's baptism."
4 Then Paul said, "John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus."
5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.
6 And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.
7 Now the men were about twelve in all.

The outpouring of the Holy Spirit or the baptism in the Holy Spirit is accompanied by supernatural manifestations—praying in other tongues being the most common.

What is the difference between the indwelling of the Spirit and the baptism of the Spirit?

John 4:13-14
13 Jesus answered and said to her, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again,
14 but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."

John 7:37-39
37 On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.
38 He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."
39 But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receiver; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

The indwelling of the Spirit is like a spring (John 4:13-14), within the believer giving eternal life and bringing personal transformation. The baptism of the Spirit is like a river (John 7: 37-39), flowing out of the believer, blessing people all around.

The Benefits Of Praying In The Spirit

(Please study the APC book, "The Wonderful Benefits of Praying in Tongues" available at apcwo.org/books.)

- Praying without boundaries—praying the mysteries of God.

1 Corinthians 14:2
For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries.

- Praying according to God's perfect will.

Romans 8:26-27
26 Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.
27 Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

- Helps overcome the weaknesses of the flesh.

Romans 8:26
Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

Matthew 3:11-12
11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.
12 His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.

The baptism in fire at a personal level has to do with the burning up of the chaff, the things of the flesh.

- Personal edification—builds you up spiritually.

1 Corinthians 14:2
For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries.

Jude 1:20
But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,

Ephesians 3:16
That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man,

- Rest and refreshing.

Isaiah 28:11-12
11 For with stammering lips and another tongue He will speak to this people,
12 To whom He said, "This is the rest with which You may cause the weary to rest," and, "This is the refreshing;" yet they would not hear.

1 Corinthians 14:21
In the law it is written: "With men of other tongues and other lips I will speak to this people; and yet, for all that, they will not hear Me," says the Lord.

- Another way to praise and magnify God.

Acts 10:46
For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God.

- Enables your spirit to receive the mysteries (hidden secrets) of God for your own life. Very often the meaning of what you are saying is conveyed to your own spirit as you are praying.

1 Corinthians 2:7-16
7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory,
8 which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.
9 But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him."
10 But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.
11 For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.
12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.
13 These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.
14 But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.
15 But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one.
16 For "who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

1 Corinthians 14:2
For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries.

- Helps stir up the gifts of God within you—being the most basic spiritual gift when you stir yourself up in this area.

2 Timothy 1:6
Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.

KEY MEMORY VERSES

Galatians 4:6-7
6 And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!"
7 Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

Romans 8:26-27
26 Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.
27 Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

Romans 8:14-16
14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.
15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."
16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

APPLICATION

1. How can you grow in your relationship with the Holy Spirit?

2. Are there areas in your life, where you need to depend more on the Spirit's help, to see change and transformation? What are some of these? Begin praying/talking about these to the Holy Spirit and seek His work in those areas.

12. FAITH

(This lesson is designed to teach us how to live by faith in God and His Word. We must walk by faith, if we are to be pleasing to God and if we are to see His works released through our lives.)

The Concept Of Faith

Romans 1:17
For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."

Hebrews 11:6
But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

People live with their five senses, but we as children of God live with a "sixth sense"—the "sense of faith!"

God Calls Us to Live by Faith

Hebrews 11:1 (Amplified Bible)
Now faith is the assurance (the confirmation, the title deed) of the things [we] hope for, being the proof of things [we] do not see and the conviction of their reality [faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses].

Faith Comes from God

Acts 3:16
And His name, through faith in His name, has made this man strong, whom you see and know. Yes, the faith which comes through Him has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.

Hebrews 12:1-2
1 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,
2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Faith is the door that invites God to my circumstances.

The Sovereignty Of God And The Exercise Of Faith

Matthew 13:58
Now he did not do many mighty works there because of their unbelief.

Mark 6:5-6
5 Now He could do no mighty work there, except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them.
6 And He marveled because of their unbelief. Then He went about the villages in a circuit, teaching.

- If God is Sovereign (all powerful, above all others and independent of all others) and whom no one can stop, why does He still require His people to exercise personal faith if they are to experience His mighty workings in their lives?

It may seem conflicting—our God is Almighty and Sovereign, and yet God may be limited by our unbelief and cannot work if there is no faith.

- If everything is a free gift of grace, then how is it that we can receive them only through faith*?*

For as we understand it, grace is an expression of God's character that is independent of anything we have done, while faith is an expression on **our part** of confidence and trust in God.

Points to Consider:

- God in His wisdom has deemed it fit that these two apparently conflicting attributes co-exist. There is the realm of God's indisputable Sovereignty and there surely is the integral and necessary element of personal faith with its dynamic results.
- There are certain things that depend solely on the Sovereignty of God such as God's eternal purpose and His plan for the ages. These will be accomplished independent of the exercise of human faith. And then there are individual purposes that God has, whose fulfillment depends on the individual's cooperation with God.
- In extending all His gifts freely to us out of His grace and yet making it necessary for each one to receive them by faith, God is giving every person "equal opportunity" to receive from Him. Regardless of race, color, social, or economic standing, and past experiences, every person has the same opportunity to receive what God has extended to us freely by His grace.
- The realm of faith has its perimeters set by the will and purpose of God. To operate outside of this is to "knock against" the Sovereign will of God, and no one can be successful in doing so.

So, it is necessary for every believer to learn how to live by faith.

Faith In The Old Testament And New Testament

Abraham

Read Abraham's story in (Genesis 11:26-Genesis 25:11)

Romans 4:18-21
18 Who, contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, "So shall your descendants be."
19 And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb.
20 He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God.
21 And being fully convinced that what He had promised he was also able to perform.

Jesus' Teaching on Faith

Mark 11:22
So Jesus answered and said to them, "Have faith in God."

Matthew 9:29
Then He touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith let it be to you."

There are many examples of faith:

Matthew 8:13
Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go your way; and as you have believed, so let it be done for you." And his servant was healed that same hour.

Matthew 9:2
Then behold, they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you."

Matthew 9:22,29
22 But Jesus turned around, and when He saw her He said, "Be of good cheer, daughter; your faith has made you well." And the woman was made well from that hour.
29 Then He touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith let it be to you."

Matthew 15:28
Then Jesus answered and said to her, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire." And her daughter was healed from that very hour.

Matthew 17:20
So Jesus said to them, "Because of your unbelief for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.

Matthew 21:17-21
17 Then He left them and went out of the city to Bethany, and He lodged there.
18 Now in the morning, as He returned to the city, He was hungry.
19 And seeing a fig tree by the road, He came to it and found nothing on it but leaves, and said to it, "Let no fruit grow on you ever again." Immediately the fig tree withered away.
20 And when the disciples saw it, they marveled, saying, "How did the fig tree wither away so soon?"
21 So Jesus answered and said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but also if you say to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' it will be done.

Faith In The Life Of The Believer

We are saved by grace through faith.

Ephesians 2:8
For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God.

Romans 5:1
Therefore having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Every believer has been given a measure of faith.

Romans 12:3
For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.

There are different levels of faith:

- No faith

Mark 4:40
But He said to them, "Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?"

- Little faith

Matthew 6:30
Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?

- Great faith

Matthew 8:10
When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, "Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!

2 Thessalonians 1:3
We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other.

Faith can grow.

How To Exercise Your Faith

Receive the Word

Romans 10:17
So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

As we hear the Word of God and allow it to enter our spirits, it generates faith. It produces a reason for inner assurance, a strong basis for faith's reason, and a solid foundation for inner convictions. The Word of God is the basis for faith's reason.

Faith is based on what God has spoken to us, either from His written Word, or a Word spoken into our hearts by His Spirit.

Speak Your Faith

Mark 11:23
For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says.

"To confess" (dictionary): "to acknowledge or to own, to acknowledge faith in."

Confession is stating something we believe in our hearts. It is giving evidence to something we know to be true. It is testifying to a truth we have accepted.

We confess:

- What God has done for us in the plan of redemption.
- What God has done in us, through His Word and His Spirit.
- What we are to the Father in Christ Jesus.

- What Jesus continues to accomplish for us now at the Father's right hand, where He makes intercession for us.
- What God can accomplish through us.

Confession must be kept within the limits of God's written Word.

Step Out in Faith (Act on your faith)

James 2:14,22,26 (Weymouth's Translation)
14 What good is it, my brethren, if a man professes to have faith, and yet his actions do not correspond? Can such faith save him?
22 You notice that his faith was co-operating with his actions, and by his actions his faith was perfected.
26 For just as the body without the spirit is lifeless, so also faith is lifeless, if it is unaccompanied by obedience.

Our actions must correspond with our beliefs if we are to receive from God.

Walk Your Faith (Endure in Faith)

Hebrews 10:35-36
35 Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward.
36 For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise.

We need to have patience and endurance to inherit the promises.

Hebrews 6:12
That you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

Romans 4:16-21
16 Therefore it is of faith that it might be according to grace, so that the promise might be sure to all the seed, not only to those who are of the law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all
17 (as it is written, "I have made you a father of many nations") in the presence of Him whom he believed—God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did;
18 who, contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, "So shall your descendants be."
19 And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb.
20 He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God,
21 and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.

When we act on our faith, we are taking a STEP. We are moving from where we are into a new place of confidence and trust in God.

But faith is also a WALK. As we endure through time, continuing steadfast in our faith,

we journey with God into the fulfillment of His promises.

Hindrances To Strong Faith

Faith is both a STEP
and
a WALK

- Lack of knowledge of God's Word.
- Your faith cannot go beyond the actual knowledge of God's Word.
- Lack of a clear desired goal.
- Worry / fear / doubt / unbelief.
- Mental assent—mentally we say "yes" (in our minds) but we do not have faith in our hearts.
- Laziness / slothfulness—failure to act upon the Word.

James 2:14,22
14 What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him?
22 Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect?

- Wrong motivation / wrong attitude,
- Living in sin, unrighteousness,
- Guilt / condemnation,
- Failure to hold fast to the confession of faith.

Hebrews 10:23
Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.

KEY MEMORY VERSES

Hebrews 11:6
But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Mark 11:23
For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says.

APPLICATION

1. What is “Faith?” To what extent do you exercise faith in your life?

2. What are the hindrances to your faith and how can you overcome those hindrances?

13. Financial Stewardship

(This lesson is designed to teach us the importance of financial stewardship by honoring God with our tithes, offerings, and giving. Should the tithe be given to the local church? Is it alright to support other Christian ministries with your giving? Should I give financially to help a brother/sister in need? How can I guard myself from being financially manipulated and exploited by preachers?)

Stewardship

What Does it Mean to be a Steward of God?

1 Corinthians 4:1-2
1 Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.
2 Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.

1 Peter 4:10
As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

Steward Gr. '*Oikonomos*' = the manager of a household or estate, governor, treasurer. Someone made responsible for something that is not his own. Someone entrusted with the responsibility to manage.

Ownership is with God, but stewardship is with us.

Oikos = house, nomos = a law

Stewardship Gr. *'Oikonomia'* = the management of a household.

This is used in:

Luke 16:2-4
2 So he called him and said to him, 'What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your stewardship, for you can no longer be steward.'
3 "Then the steward said within himself, 'What shall I do? For my master is taking the stewardship away from me. I cannot dig; I am ashamed to beg.
4 I have resolved what to do, that when I am put out of the stewardship, they may receive me into their houses.'

1 Corinthians 9:17
For if I do this willingly, I have a reward; but if against my will, I have been entrusted with a stewardship.

Colossians 1:25
Of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God which was given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God,

The steward of a household must ensure the following:

- Things are functioning as appropriate,
- Things are profitable,
- Everything is accounted for,
- He must protect/safeguard what is in his care,
- He must ensure continuity, i.e., train up asuccessor.

Galatians 4:1-2
1 Now I say that the heir, as long as he is a child, does not differ at all from a slave, though he is master of all,
2 but is under guardians and stewards until the time appointed by the father.

Characteristics of a Good Steward

- Faithful

1 Corinthians 4:1-2
1 Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.
2 Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.

Luke 16:1-12
1 He also said to His disciples: "There was a certain rich man who had a steward, and an accusation was brought to him that this man was wasting his goods.
2 So he called him and said to him, 'What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your stewardship, for you can no longer be steward.'
3 "Then the steward said within himself, 'What shall I do? For my master is taking the stewardship away from me. I cannot dig; I am ashamed to beg.
4 I have resolved what to do, that when I am put out of the stewardship, they may receive me into their houses.'
5 "So he called every one of his master's debtors to him, and said to the first, 'How much do you owe my master?'
6 And he said, 'A hundred measures of oil.' So he said to him, 'Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.'
7 Then he said to another, 'And how much do you owe?' So he said, 'A hundred measures of wheat.' And he said to him, 'Take your bill, and write eighty.'
8 So the master commended the unjust steward because he had dealt shrewdly. For the sons of this world are more shrewd in their generation than the sons of light.
9 "And I say to you, make friends for yourselves by unrighteous mammon, that when you fail, they may receive you into an everlasting home.
10 He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much.
11 Therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?

12 And if you have not been faithful in what is another man's, who will give you what is your own?

1 Timothy 1:12
And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry,

- Be faithful in little things—God will set you over many things.
- Be faithful in money—God will entrust you with true riches.
- Be faithful in what is another man's—God will give you your own.

- Wise

Luke 12:41-48
41 Then Peter said to Him, "Lord, do You speak this parable only to us, or to all people?"
42 And the Lord said, "Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his master will make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of food in due season?
43 Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes.
44 Truly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all that he has.
45 But if that servant says in his heart, 'My master is delaying his coming,' and begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and be drunk,
46 the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the unbelievers.
47 And that servant who knew his master's will, and did not prepare himself or do according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes.
48 But he who did not know, yet committed things deserving of stripes, shall be beaten with few. For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more.

We are stewards of all that God has given to us: time, energy, skills/talents, knowledge, opportunities, money/ material possessions, and other resources.

Financial Stewardship

God does bless us materially.

Deuteronomy 8:18
And you shall remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day.

Psalm 1:3
He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper.

Psalm 112:3
Wealth and riches will be in his house, and his righteousness endures forever.

1 Timothy 6:17
Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy.

Material blessing does not make us "better" than others.

The more we have, the greater the responsibility to be a good steward of the resources given to us. Giving is an expression of our financial stewardship.

Why do we give to God? As an act of worship

Psalm 96:8
Give to the Lord the glory due His name; bring an offering, and come into His courts.

Proverbs 3:9-10
9 Honor the Lord with your possessions, and with the firstfruits of all your increase;
10 so your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine.

1 Chronicles 29:10-14,16
10 Therefore David blessed the Lord before all the assembly; and David said: "Blessed are You, Lord God of Israel, our Father, forever and ever.
11 Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, the power and the glory, the victory and the majesty; for all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours; Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and You are exalted as head over all.
12 Both riches and honor come from You, and You reign over all. In Your hand is power and might; in Your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all.
13 "Now therefore, our God, we thank You and praise Your glorious name.
14 But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly as this? For all things come from You, and of Your own we have given You.
16 "O Lord our God, all this abundance that we have prepared to build You a house for Your holy name is from Your hand, and is all Your own.

Giving is worship because when you put your money in the offering, you are saying, "Here God, I give myself and what you gave me, (time and talent), back to You. Thank You. Use it for Your glory."

There are over 300 references on offerings / giving in the Bible. In the Bible, giving to the Lord was a very sacred and worshipful time—a time often marked with wonderful celebration and joyful abandon to the Lord. It was considered an honor to give to God. It was very much considered a time of high worship.

Giving is an act of obedience and trust.

Malachi 3:9-10
9 You are cursed with a curse, for you have robbed Me, even this whole nation.
10 Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this," Says the Lord of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it.

Luke 6:38
Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.

Giving recognizes God's Lordship over ALL: you, your money, and everything. We honor God with our offering. Giving shows that you trust in God as your Provider: you learn to surrender everything to Him.

Giving is an act of sowing / releasing blessing to others.

2 Corinthians 9:6-8
6 But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.
7 So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.
8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.

Philippians 4:15-16,19
15 Now you Philippians know also that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me concerning giving and receiving but you only.
16 For even in Thessalonica you sent aid once and again for my necessities.
19 And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Giving fulfills our responsibility of being a blessing and dispensing good to others. God's work on the earth must be financed through contributions made by God's people.

We are blessed to be a blessing.

Tithes, Offerings, Gifts (Alms)

Tithes

Genesis 14:20
And blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand. And he gave him a tithe of all.

Abram gives his tithe. This is the first time, the word "tithe" is mentioned in the Bible.

Tithing is simply giving back to God one tenth of what you have received, the firstfruits of your increase.

Proverbs 3:9
Honor the Lord with your possessions, and with the firstfruits of all your increase.

Malachi 3:8-11
8 Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, 'In what way have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings.
9 You are cursed with a curse, for you have robbed Me, even this whole nation.
10 Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this," says the Lord of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it.
11 "And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, so that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground, nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field," says the Lord of hosts.

God does not use the tithe to raise money, since He has no need of any. He uses it to teach His children to set apart things wholly unto the Lord. Everyone, including ministers, are to tithe!

God is serious about the tithe.
To not tithe is to rob!

Numbers 18:26
Speak thus to the Levites, and say to them: 'When you take from the children of Israel the tithes which I have given you from them as your inheritance, then you shall offer up a heave offering of it to the Lord, a tenth of the tithe.

God does not need our money. Everything already belongs to Him. However, tithing is a way of showing our submission to the Lord in finances.

The Blessings of a Tither

The enemy does not want you to tithe, because tithing puts your finances in covenant with God.

In covenant, you can co-labor with the covenant principles of finances and expect to see the covenant promises of God which are rightfully yours.

- Covenant blessings in your finances.
- Tithing opens heaven over your finances.
- Tithing protects you against the enemy of your finances.
- Tithing releases material blessings.

The Reason We Still Need to Tithe Today

- Tithing was practiced even before the Law, and hence is not because of the Law.

Genesis 14:20
And blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand. And he gave him a tithe of all.

Abraham tithed 400 years before Moses and the Law.

Isaac tithed approximately 350 years before Moses and the Law.

The practice of tithing is an expression of a "covenant relationship," and not exclusively part of the Law. Our "covenant relationship" is still in existence today and so is the giving of the tithe.

- Tithing did not end at the Cross.

For every incident of discontinuance or change, there are specific New Testament Scriptures identifying the change. Without the New Testament Scripture identifying the change—there is no biblical basis for change. There is no New Testament verse mentioning the ending or changing of the tithe. The financial covenant relationship act with God has not changed. God still loves and expects to be worshipped with the tithe.

- Jesus said the tithe should be done.

Matthew 23:23
Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone.

- Jesus, our New Covenant High Priest receives tithes.

Hebrews 7:8
Here mortal men receive tithes, but there he receives them, of whom it is witnessed that he lives.

The tithe is current and is still to be given to God today.

Offerings

This is the seed you sow generously.

2 Corinthians 9:6-8
6 But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.
7 So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.
8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.

Anything above your tithes (10 percent) that you give for the work of the Lord is your offering.

Gifts and Alms

Matthew 6:1-4
1 Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven.
2 Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.
3 But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing,
4 that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly.

Matthew 25:40
And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'

James 1:27
Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.

Proverbs 19:17
He who has pity on the poor lends to the Lord, and He will pay back what he has given.

It is giving to those in need who are part of the household of faith, or "lending to the poor," intended to assist poor and helpless people.

This is given in addition to the tithes and offerings. This is a sacrifice we choose to make.

The Ministry Of Giving

Romans 12:6-8
6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith;
7 or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching;
8 he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

There are some believers whom God has graced and gifted with an abundance of finances to give for the work of His Kingdom. This is their ministry.

Common Questions And Answers

Should the tithe be given to the local church?

Yes, we believe that the tithe belongs to the local church (the storehouse) as this is where you receive your spiritual nourishment, care, and support from. The Old Testament practice was to take it to the storehouse in God's temple. However, at APC we do not record or track any individual's giving. So, you are free to follow your personal convictions in this matter.

Is it alright to support other Christian ministries with your giving?

Yes, we feel that once you have given your tithes and offerings to your local church, you are welcome to also support other Christian ministries that the Lord lays on your heart.

Should I give financially to help a brother/sister in need?

Yes, we are to help one another as the Lord enables us.

Galatians 6:10
Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

Beware of people who exploit "Christian" relationships for their own need.

2 Thessalonians 3:6-13
6 But we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly and not according to the tradition which he received from us.
7 For you yourselves know how you ought to follow us, for we were not disorderly among you;
8 nor did we eat anyone's bread free of charge, but worked with labor and toil night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you,
9 not because we do not have authority, but to make ourselves an example of how you should follow us.
10 For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat.
11 For we hear that there are some who walk among you in a disorderly manner, not working at all, but are busybodies.
12 Now those who are such we command and exhort through our Lord Jesus Christ that they work in quietness and eat their own bread.
13 But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary in doing good.

We discourage people from borrowing and lending. If you lend to someone at church, please use your own discretion and kindly note that the church will not be responsible.

How can I guard myself from being financially manipulated and exploited by preachers?

- ✓ *Plan your giving—so that you are not emotionally manipulated by the demands of a preacher who suddenly shows up at a meeting or at your home.*

- ✓ *Be led by the Spirit of God—not by your emotions or by the demands or even by the need presented to you.*

- ✓ *Decide never to give out of compulsion or false promises. If a preacher urges you to give to buy some "spiritual blessing," refuse to give. Beware of those who extort and exploit people for their own ministry agendas.*

Is it alright to save and/or invest money in property, financial instruments (stocks, bonds, mutual funds), or other assets to gain profitable returns?

While we keep aside some of what God has given us (saving / investing) we do not depend on this for security. God is always the Source of our total supply.

Matthew 6:19-24
19 "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal;
20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.
21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.
22 "The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light.
23 But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness!
24 "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

Proverbs 6:6-8
6 Go to the ant, you sluggard! Consider her ways and be wise,
7 Which, having no captain, Overseer or ruler,
8 Provides her supplies in the summer, and gathers her food in the harvest.

While we see warning against usury in the Old Testament, we understand "usury," as meaning unlawful or exorbitant interest.

Some examples:

Leviticus 25:37
You shall not lend him your money for usury, nor lend him your food at a profit.

Psalm 15:5
He who does not put out his money at usury, nor does he take a bribe against the innocent. He who does these things shall never be moved.

Proverbs 28:8
One who increases his possessions by usury and extortion gathers it for him who will pity the poor.

However, we believe that any lawful means to increase wealth that does not exploit or misuse another person is acceptable before God. For example, the Lord Jesus in His illustration stated the master as saying, "*Why then did you not put my money in the bank, that at my coming I might have collected it with interest*?" (Luke 19:23).

You are welcome to maintain your own conviction on this.

Beware

- of the love of money + greed

Proverbs 15:27
He who is greedy for gain troubles his own house, but he who hates bribes will live.

1 Timothy 6:10
For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

- of self-indulgence and selfishness

Luke 12:15-21
15 And He said to them, "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses."
16 Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully.
17 And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?'
18 So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods.
19 And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry."'
20 But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?'
21 "So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

- of pride

1 Timothy 6:17-19
17 Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy.
18 Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share,

19 storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

- ✓ Be faithful in little things—God will set you over many things.
- ✓ Be faithful in money—God will entrust you with true riches.
- ✓ Be faithful in what is another. man's—God will give you your

KEY MEMORY VERSES

Proverbs 3:9
Honor the Lord with your possessions, and with the firstfruits of all your increase.

Galatians 6:10
Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

APPLICATION

1. What are the characteristics of a good steward of God?

2. How can I be a good financial steward of all that God has given me?

14. Fulfilling God's Purpose For Your Life

(This lesson is designed to teach us that God has a specific purpose for each one of us, and encourage us to discover, pursue, and fulfill God's purpose for our lives. Do use the free APC book "Fulfilling God's Purpose for Your Life" for a complete study on this subject. The lesson outline here is based on Chapter 1 from that book.)

Introduction

God has a plan for each of our lives and we must go on to fulfill those plans. This lesson will enable us to first recognize that God has a unique purpose for each one of us. When we are convinced about that, we must then be willing to do whatever it takes to fulfill His plans and purposes for our lives.

Understanding That God Has A Purpose For Your Life

God Is a God of Plan, Purpose, Design, and Objective

God is a God of plan, purpose, design, and objective, and He does not work at random or arbitrarily.

Acts 15:18
Known to God from eternity are all His works.

Isaiah 46:10
Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure.'

God has His Purpose—the "General Purpose" or "The Master Plan"

God has a "Master Plan"—the eternal purpose that He unfolds and executes on the earth today.

God's Master Plan is

- ✓ To have people saved,
- ✓ For them to come to the knowledge of the truth,
- ✓ To be conformed to the image of His Son Jesus Christ.

God has a Purpose for You—"A Specific Plan"

God has a blueprint for your life.

God has a dream for your life.

God created you for a purpose.

God designed you to be able to fulfill the purpose that he had in mind for you.

Psalm 139:16
Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, the days fashioned for me, when as yet there were none of them.

Remember God has a plan and purpose for YOU! There are good works that God pre-planned for you to accomplish on the earth.

Ephesians 2:10
For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

There are places that God wants you to go to; people He wants you to touch; lives He wants you to impact; things He wants you to accomplish; cities He wants you to transform; nations He wants you to shake!

Living life is simple! Find out what God has planned for your life and walk in it!

God's "specific plan" for us is a piece of His "master plan." As you go about fulfilling God's specific purpose for your life, you will help carry out God's general purpose on the earth.

God's Plan for Us Is Always Good!

Be CONVINCED that God's plan for you IS good! God is for you and not against you. His plans for you are always for your '*shalom*' (well-being, health, prosperity, success, peace). There is nothing better than God's plan for you!

Jeremiah 29:11
For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace (Heb. 'shalom') and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Romans 8:28
And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

We Must Cooperate with God to Fulfill His Plan

1 Corinthians 3:9
For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building.

The fulfillment of God's plan for our lives is not automatic. The fulfillment of God's plan and purpose for our lives is dependent on us. Some may never begin to do God's plan

while others may do just a small percent of His plan. The Bible talks about Apostle Paul who "finished His course."

God expresses His will in heaven. But He looks to His people on earth to execute it.

We Must Discover and Pursue God's Plan for Our Lives

God's plan and purpose for our lives need not be a mystery! Some people are of the opinion that God's will is so mysterious that we cannot know it! This is untrue!

God is more than willing to reveal His will—His plan and purpose for our lives—if we are willing to seek Him for it.

There are nine "guideposts" (See Chapter 2 in the book "Fulfilling God's Purpose for Your Life") that will help us discern God's leading and direction for our lives.

God Will Prepare You To Fulfill His Plan And Purpose

The more thorough your preparation, the more likely you are to succeed. Remember that preparation time is never wasted time. The greater the call, the greater the preparation needs to be!

God Helps Overcome Past failures

We may make mistakes, but God can help us overcome our failures and help us complete His call.

Any weakness that you do not conquer will be used by satan against you.

God is not looking for perfect vessels.
He is looking for yielded vessels.

God is greater than time. God is greater than our mistakes.

2 Corinthians 4:7
But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.

It is the power of God working through us. We are earthen vessels.

Satan Will Hinder Us From Fulfilling God's Purpose

A God-given dream will always face demonic opposition.

Delays are not always from God (Daniel 10:2–14). Satan may attempt to delay your miracle and thus weaken your desire to keep reaching out for God's highest and best.

We Must Remain Focused On God's Call

Distractions—broken focus will result in wasted time and energy.

God said, *"Turn not to the right hand or to the left"* (Proverbs 4:27).

We Must Have Endurance

The taste of victory outlasts the memory of your struggle - Mike Murdock.

Your endurance is demoralizing to satan - Mike Murdock.

KEY MEMORY VERSES

Ephesians 2:10
For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Jeremiah 29:11
For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace (Heb. 'shalom') and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Romans 8:28
And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

Believe that you were designed by God for a specific purpose.

Pray and ask the Lord to reveal to you His dream for your life. Progressively things will become clearer to you.

Decide that you will live for His purpose for your life and will not settle for anything else.

APPLICATION

1. At this stage in life, do I have a sense of God's purpose and His dream for my life?

2. How would I go about discovering God's purpose for my life?

3. Write down what you feel are the things God wants you to fulfill in life.

_____

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Partner with All Peoples Church

All Peoples Church ministers beyond its own borders as a local church by reaching out all across India, especially North India, with a special focus on (A) Strengthening Leaders, (B) Equipping young people for ministry and (C) Building up the Body of Christ. Several training seminars for young people, and Christian Leaders conferences are held throughout the year. In addition, several thousands of copies of books are distributed free of cost in English and other Indian languages with the purpose of equipping believers in the Word and in the Spirit.

We invite you to partner with us financially by sending either a one-time gift or a monthly financial gift. Any amount that you can send to help us in this work across our nation will be greatly appreciated.

You can send your gift by cheque / bank draft payable to "All Peoples Church" to our office address. Else you can remit your contribution directly by bank transfer using our bank account details.

Account Name: All Peoples Church
Account Number: 0057213809
IFSC Code: CITI0000004
Bank: Citibank N.A., No. 5, M.G. Road, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560001

Kindly note: All Peoples Church can only accept bank contributions from an India based bank account. When making your contribution, if desired, you can indicate the specific APC ministry area where you would like your contribution to be used. For additional details please visit ***apcwo.org/give***

Also, please remember to pray for us and our ministry whenever you can.

Thank You and God Bless!

FREE PUBLICATIONS

A Church in Revival*
A Real Place Called Heaven
A Time for Every Purpose
Ancient Landmarks*
Baptism in the Holy Spirit
Being Spiritually Minded and Earthly Wise
Biblical Attitude Towards Work
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Shhh! No Gossip!
Speak Your Faith *
The Conquest of the Mind
The Father's Love
The House of God
The Kingdom of God
The Mighty Name of Jesus *
The Night Seasons of Life
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Understanding the Prophetic
Water Baptism
We Are Different*
Who We Are in Christ
Women in the Workplace
Work Its Original Design

PDF versions of all the above books are available for free download from our church website at **apcwo.org/books**. Many of these books are also available in other languages. To request your free copy of these books, please send an email to **bookrequest@apcwo.org**
*Available only as PDF

Also visit our church website for free Audio and Video sermons, Sermon notes (**apcwo.org/sermons**), and many other resources you can use.

About All Peoples Church

At All Peoples Church (APC), our vision is to be salt and light in the city of Bangalore and a voice to the nation of India and to the nations of the world.

At APC, we are committed to presenting the complete, uncompromised Word of God in the anointing and demonstration of His Holy Spirit. We believe that good music, creative presentations, brilliant apologetics, contemporary ministry techniques, latest technology and so on, can never substitute the God-ordained approach of proclaiming the Word in the power of the Holy Spirit with signs, wonders, miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 2:4-5; Hebrews 2:3-4). Our theme is Jesus, our content is the Word, our method is Holy Spirit power, our passion is people, and our goal is Christlike maturity.

With our main base in Bangalore, All Peoples Church has several other church locations in India. To get a current listing and contact information of All Peoples Church locations, please visit our website at **www.apcwo.org/locations** or send an email to **contact@apcwo.org**

DO YOU KNOW THE GOD WHO LOVES YOU?

About 2000 years ago, God came into this world as a man. His name is Jesus. He lived a perfectly sinless life. Since Jesus was God in flesh, everything He said and did revealed God to us. The words He spoke were the very words of God. The things He did were the actions of God. Jesus did many miracles on the Earth. He healed the sick and suffering. He opened blind eyes, unstopped deaf ears, made the lame to walk and healed every kind of sickness and disease. He fed the hungry by miraculously multiplying a few loaves of bread, calmed the storm and did many other wonderful things.

All of these actions reveal to us that God is a good God who wants people to be well, whole, healthy and happy. God wants to meet the needs of people.

So why then would God decide to become a man and step into our world? Why did Jesus come?

All of us have sinned and done things that are unacceptable before the God who created us. Sin has its consequences. Sin is like a great unsurpassable wall between God and us. Sin separates us from God. It prevents us from knowing and having a meaningful relationship with the One who created us. Therefore, many of us try to fill this void with other things.

Another consequence of our sins is eternal separation from God. In God's court, the penalty for sin is death. Death is eternal separation from God in hell.

But, the good news is that we can be free from sin and be restored to God. The Bible says, **"For the wages [payment] of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23).** Jesus paid for the sins of the whole world when He died on the cross. Then, three days later He rose again, showed Himself alive to many and then went back into heaven.

God is a God of love and mercy. He does not wish that any person be lost in hell. And so He came, to provide a way for the entire human race to be free from sin and its lasting consequences. He came to save sinners—to rescue people like you and me from sin and eternal death.

To receive this free forgiveness of sins, the Bible tells us that we have to do just one thing—accept what the Lord Jesus Christ did on the cross and to believe in Him whole-heartedly.

"… through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive forgiveness of sins" (Acts 10:43).

“That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved” (Romans 10:9).

You too can receive forgiveness and cleansing for your sins if you will believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.

The following is a simple prayer to help you make a decision to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and what He has done for you on the cross. This prayer will help you express your acceptance of what Jesus has done for you and receive forgiveness and cleansing for your sins. This prayer is only a guideline. You can also pray in your own words.

Dear Lord Jesus, today, I have understood what You did for me on the cross. You died for me, You shed Your precious blood and paid the penalty for my sins, so that I could be forgiven. The Bible tells me that whoever believes in You will receive forgiveness for their sins.

Today, I make a decision to believe in You and to accept what You did for me, by dying for me on the cross and rising again from the dead. I know I cannot save myself by my own good works, neither can any other human save me. I cannot earn forgiveness for my sins.

Today, I believe in my heart and say with my mouth that You died for me, You paid the penalty for my sins, You rose again from the dead, and by faith in You, I receive forgiveness and cleansing for my sins..

Thank You Jesus. Help me to love You, to know You more and to be faithful to You. Amen.

ATTEND A WEEKEND SCHOOL

Weekend Schools, held in Bangalore, are geared to train and equip believers in specific areas of life and ministry. These are conveniently held over a weekend (Saturday/Sunday), 10am-5pm. Weekend schools are open to all believers from all churches and across denominations, who are interested in being trained and equipped. Below is a list of weekend schools that are currently being hosted.

Weekend School of Prophetic Ministry
Weekend School of Healing and Deliverance
Weekend School on Gifts of the Spirit
Weekend School of Prayer and Intercession
Weekend School on Inner Wholeness
Weekend School on Lifestyle Evangelism
Weekend School on God@Work
Weekend School of Urban Missions and Church Planting
Weekend School on Christian Apologetics

Please visit: a**pcwo.org/weekendschool** for current schedule and to register online.

HOST A CHRISTIAN LEADERS CONFERENCE

All Peoples Church provides Spirit anointed equipping and impartation for pastors, local church leadership, leaders of Christian organizations and others engaging in Christian ministry. In addition to anointed teaching, Spirit-led ministry and impartation, our teams engage in personal interaction and discussions with participants. Each Christian Leaders' Conference runs typically for 2 to 3 days focused on a specific theme. Participants will leave renewed, empowered, and equipped for greater impact and effectiveness in their ministry. Christian Leaders Conferences are typically hosted by a local church, a Christian ministry, a mission organization or denominational head-office for churches and pastors in its area or within its network or denomination. The hosting organization will cover the expenses of the conference as well as inviting participants. All Peoples Church will send its ministry team to serve the participants at the Christian Leaders' Conference.

Some of the themes that our teams commonly minister on:

- Revivals, Visitations and Moves of God
- Presence and Glory
- Kingdom Builders (The Kingdom of God and Kingdom Building)
- Level Ground
- The House of God
- Apostolic and Prophetic Ministry
- Ministering Healing and Deliverance
- Gifts of the Spirit
- Marriage and Family
- Equipping the Saints and Marketplace Transformation

For additional details and a current listing of themes for Christian Leaders Conference, please visit: **apcwo.org/CLC**

To schedule and plan a Christian Leaders Conference please email us at:
contact@apcwo.org

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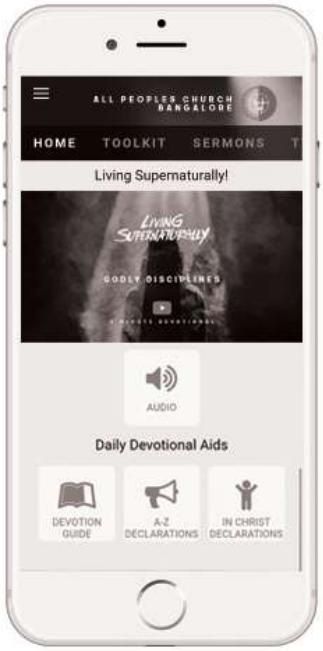

A daily 5-minute video devotional.
A daily Bible reading and prayer guide.
5-minute Sermon summary.
Toolkit with Scriptures on various topics to build faith and information to share the Gospel.
Resources with sermons, sermon notes, TV programs, books, music and more.

IF YOU LOVE IT, TELL OTHERS ABOUT IT!

All Peoples Church Bible College

apcbiblecollege.org

All Peoples Church Bible College and Ministry Training Center (APC-BC), in Bangalore, India, provides Spirit-filled, anointed, hands-on training and equipping for ministering in the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit along with doctrinally sound and intellectually stimulating study of God's Word. We believe in developing the whole person for ministry emphasizing godly character, deep roots in the Word of God, and powerful demonstrations of signs, wonders and miracles - all flowing out of an intimate relationship with the Lord.

At APC-BC in addition to sound teaching we emphasize the love of God in demonstration, the anointing and presence of the Holy Spirit and the supernatural work of God. Several young men and women have been trained and sent out to fulfill God's call over their lives.

We offer three programs:

- One-year Certificate in Theology and Christian Ministry (C.Th.)
- Two-year Diploma in Theology and Christian Ministry (Dip.Th.)
- Three-year Bachelor's in Theology and Christian Ministry (B.Th.)

Classes are held each weekday, **Monday to Friday from 9:00am-1pm**. Day scholars, working professionals, and homemakers can attend these classes and continue with their workday after 1pm. Separate hostel facilities are available for men and women who desire to be residential students. Students participate in field work, special seminars, prayer and worship times in the afternoon sessions, each weekday from 2pm-5pm. The afternoon sessions are optional for day scholars (non-residential students). All students are encouraged to serve at one or more local churches over the weekends.

To **apply online**, and for more information about the college, curriculum, eligibility criteria, tuition costs and to download the application form, please visit: **apcbiblecollege.org**

APC-BC is accredited by the Nations Association for Theological Accreditation (NATA).

The Lord Jesus desires to see every believer brought to a place of maturity and released to being a "minister" of God in their world—the marketplace or wherever else. At APC, we believe that every believer is a minister and is authorized by God to work the works of God and truly represent Christ to the world.

FOUNDATIONS is designed to strengthen you in God's Word and Spirit so that you can be fully equipped for every good work, as emphasized in 2 Timothy 3:16-17.

Track 1 consists of a series of lessons that will help a new believer become a disciple of Jesus Christ.

Ashish Raichur

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